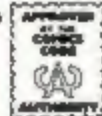


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SONIC vs. KNUCKLES



47021

BATTLE ROYAL

48 PAGE SPECIAL!



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SONIC vs. KNUCKLES™

BATTLE ROYAL



"BATTLE ROYAL"

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Jim Amash-Inker, Kent Sellers-Colorist, Jeff Powell-Letterer

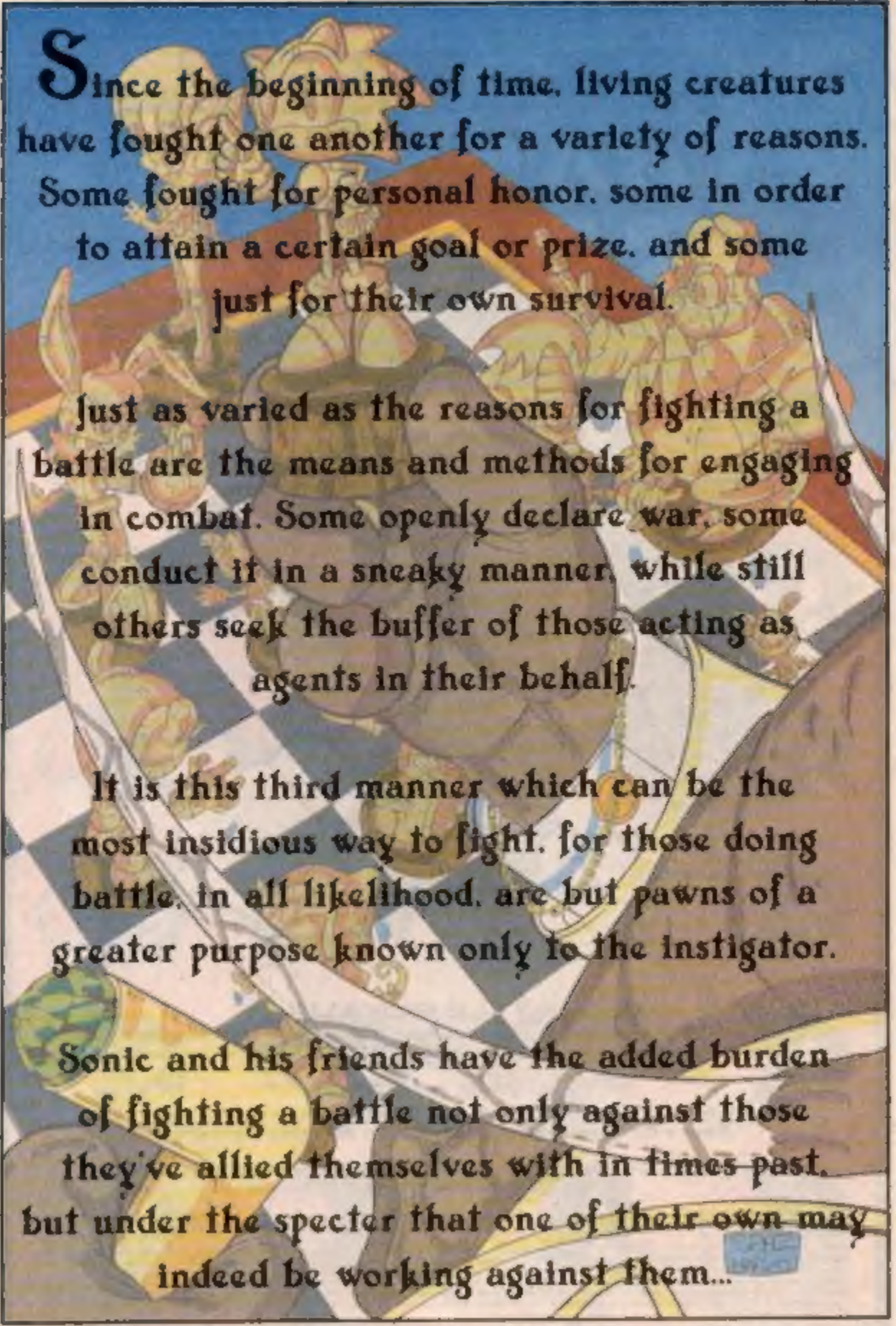
"THE MAP"

Tom Ralston-Writer, Dave Manak-Penciler, Rich Koslowski-Inker
Berry Grossman-Colorist, Vickie Williams-Letterer

Freddy Gabrie-Editor, Victor Gopello-Managing Editor
Richard Goldwater-Editor-in-Chief

SPECIAL THANKS to Susan Suarez and Helen B.

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Since the beginning of time, living creatures have fought one another for a variety of reasons. Some fought for personal honor, some in order to attain a certain goal or prize, and some just for their own survival.

Just as varied as the reasons for fighting a battle are the means and methods for engaging in combat. Some openly declare war, some conduct it in a sneaky manner, while still others seek the buffer of those acting as agents in their behalf.

It is this third manner which can be the most insidious way to fight, for those doing battle, in all likelihood, are but pawns of a greater purpose known only to the instigator.

Sonic and his friends have the added burden of fighting a battle not only against those they've allied themselves with in times past, but under the specter that one of their own may indeed be working against them...

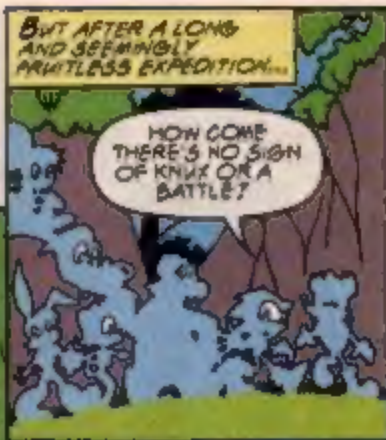
EVER AN AWESOME SIGHT TO BEHOLD, THE GRAND SPECTACLE THAT IS THE FLOATING ISLAND ALWAYS SPARKS AWE, EVEN IN MINDS HEAVY WITH DOUBTS OF FUTURE EXISTENCE...

STILL, TODAY'S JOURNEY FILLED WITH PROMISE OF NEW PROSPERITY FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, IS NEVERTHELESS LADEN WITH ANXIETY AS IT WAS INITIATED BY A DISTRESS CALL...

MMM... I WONDER...
WELL WE HAVE ZEE TRIUMPH
OR ZEE DOOM WHEN WE
ONCE AGAIN VISIT KNUCKLES'
HOME?

C'MON, ANTOINE! IT
CERTAINLY SOUNDED LIKE
GOOD NEWS WHEN ROTOR
ARRIVED AT OUR CAMPFIRE
POW WOW* TO TELL US KNUX
WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS
QUEST!

*THE "POW WOW" AND RETRIEVAL
OF KING ACCORN'S SWORD
HAPPENED IN SONIC 4B. -- J.M.S.







TOO LATE FOR THAT-- THESE GUYS GOT OUR HANDS FULL UP!



COOL DOWN, SONIC! TAKE THEM DOWN-- BUT WITH MINIMUM FORCE!



YOU WON'T TAKE US DOWN BEFORE WE TAKE YOU OUT!

OUTTA THE WAY, DULCY! LET ME AT 'EM!

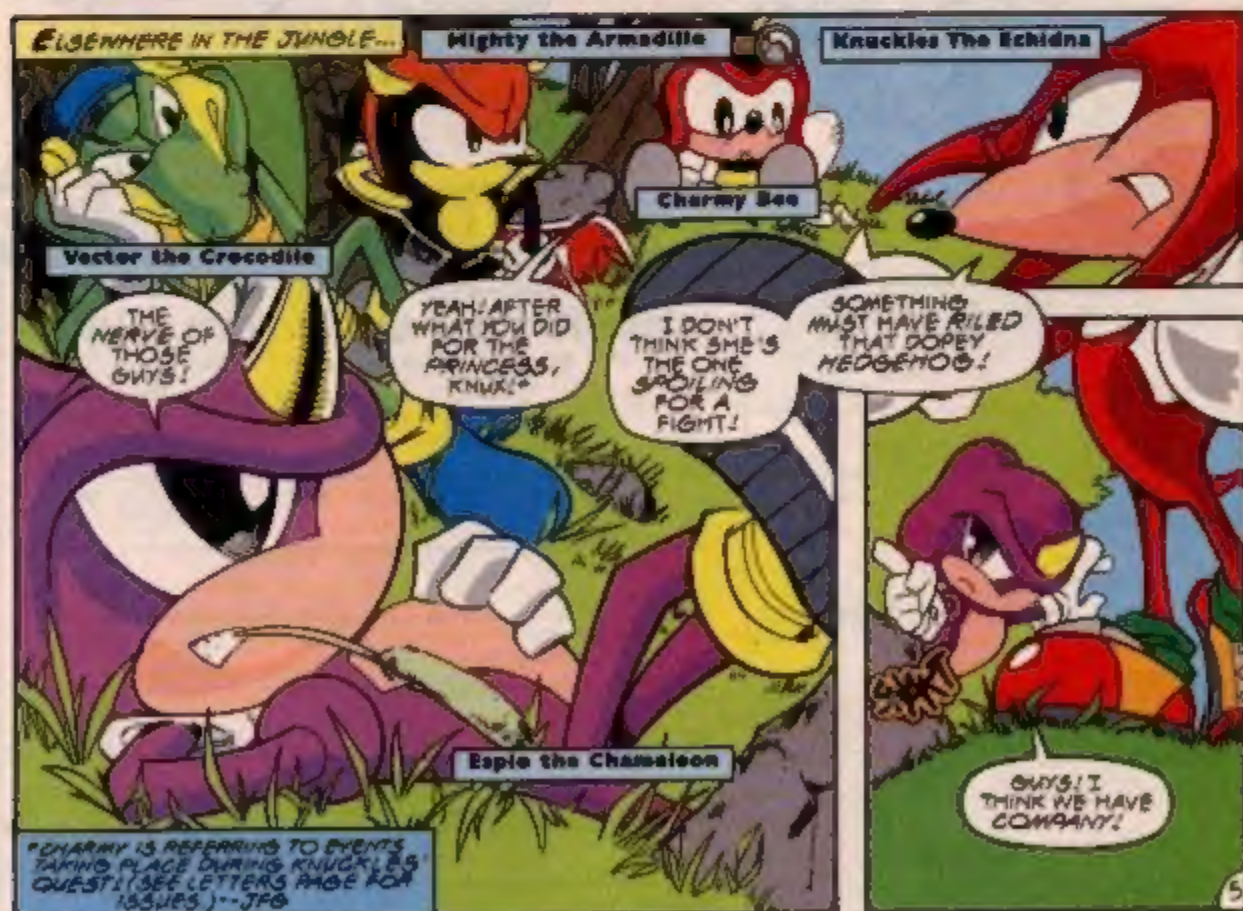
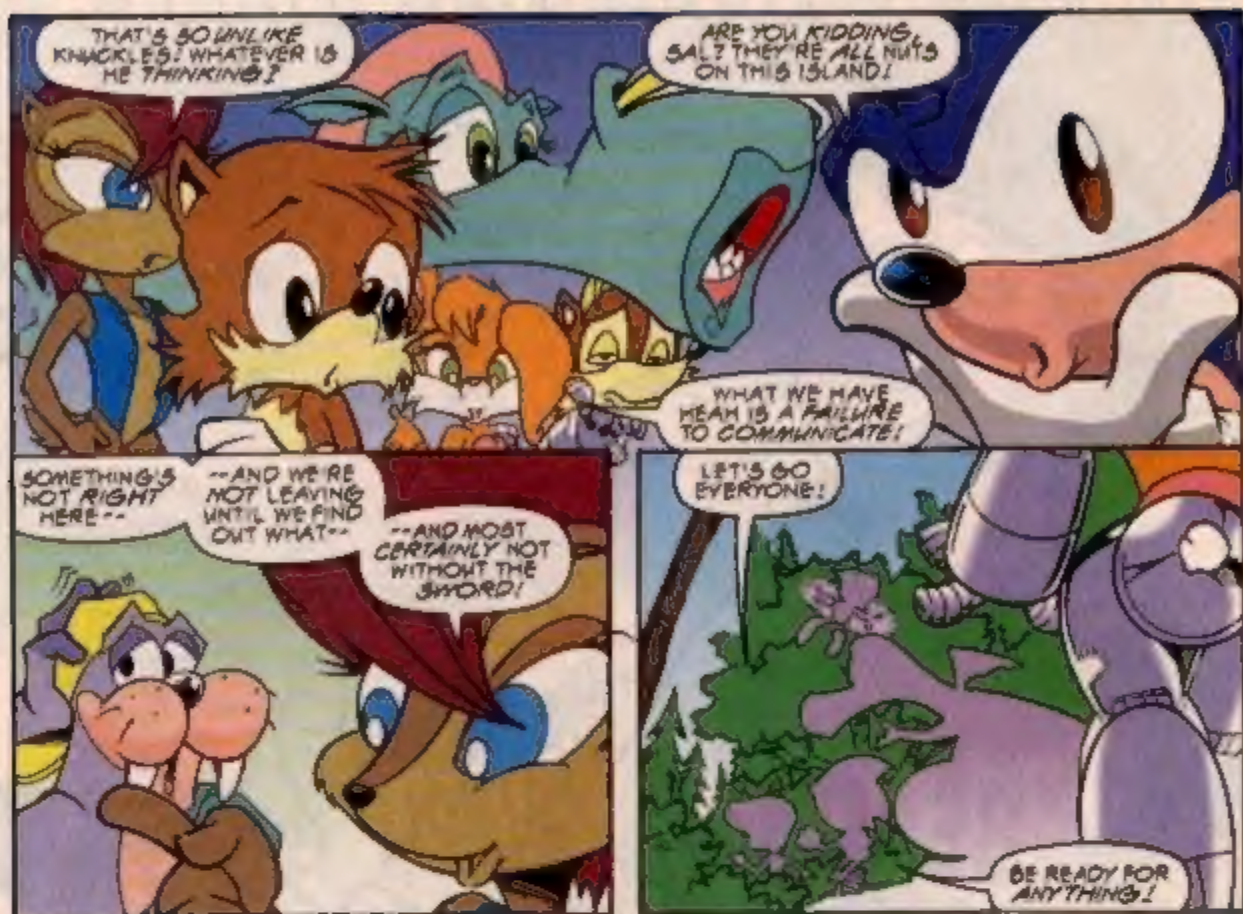
YOU HEARD SALLY! WE'RE JUST TRYING TO STOP THEM!

GLOB

YEAH! YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO STICK AROUND WHILE WE SORT THIS OUT!

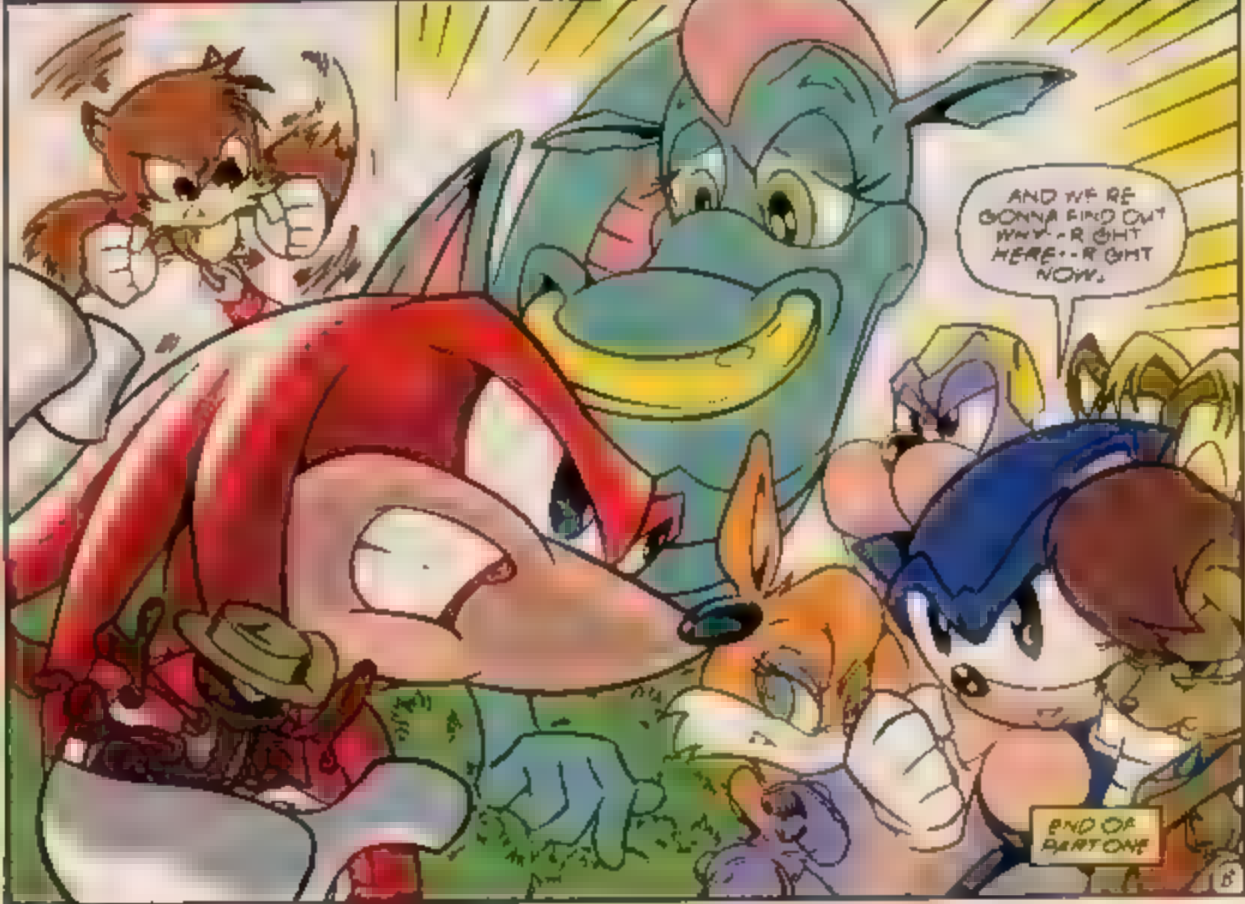
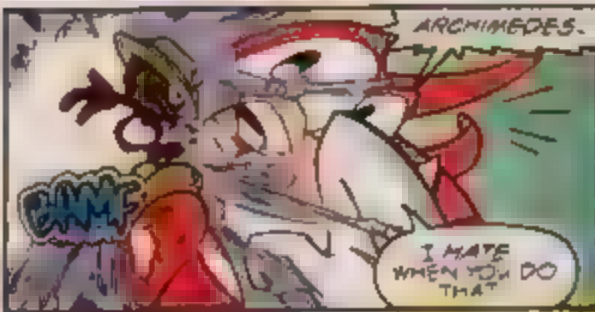
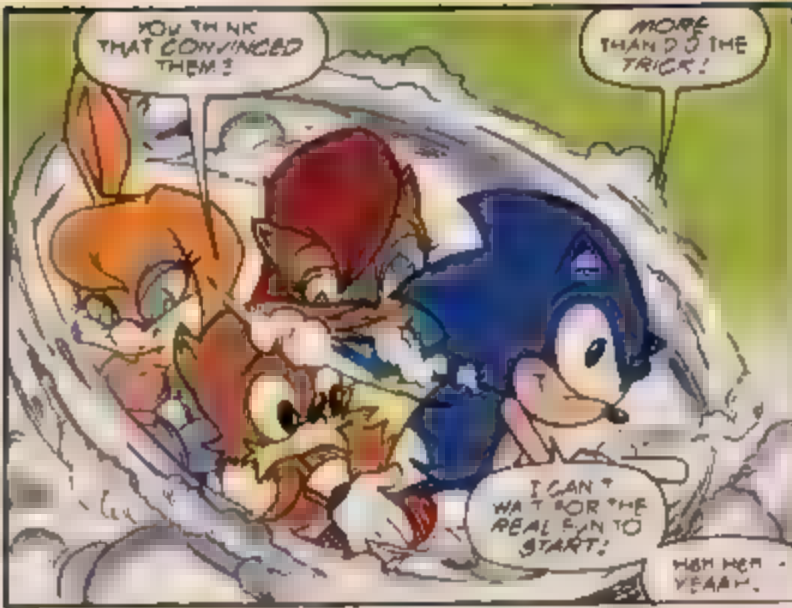
BAMF

NOT IF THE POWERS OF THE NEARBY ARCHIMEDES HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT! WE'LL BE BACK AND KNUCKLES WILL BE WITH US!









REVEL

PART TWO

"H.S. YOU
FINKS."

YOU CAN'T KICK
IS FREE FIGHTERS
AROUND AND GET AWAY
W™

YO BOY YOU
BE THE ONE WHO
JESSED'S
FIRST.

I CAN SEE
BOYS WILL BE
BOYS.

THIS
CALLS FOR
SAVER
--475

IF THERE'S
ONE THING I
REALLY
HATE--

--IT'S
CHISELERS
WHO GO BACK
ON THEIR
WORD!

YOU'VE LOST
IT. YOU'VE TOTALLY
LOST IT.

EITHER THAT--
OR YOU'VE ONE BIG
DEATH WISH!

BAMF

SONIC!
WAIT.

ON THIS IS
HOPELESS!





THIS IS
PATHETIC!

I WAN BACK
TO YOUR CLAYBEN,
KID!

WHO ARE
YOU CALLING
"KID"?!?

IT'S ALL
THE SAME TO YOU
BOYS AND GIRLS!
MAKE LOVE NOT
WAR!

SEEMS TO ME
YOU'VE A BUNNY
WAY OF SHOWING



HEY! NO
FAIR!
HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO
SEE YOU?

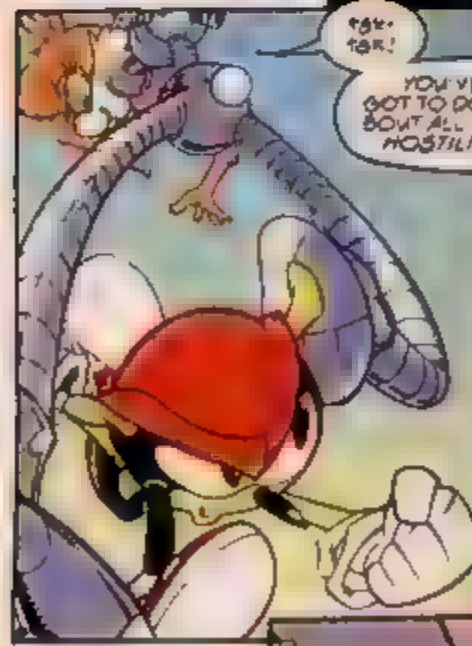
GET
REAL!

WHAT IN
LIFE IS FAIR
THESE DAYS?



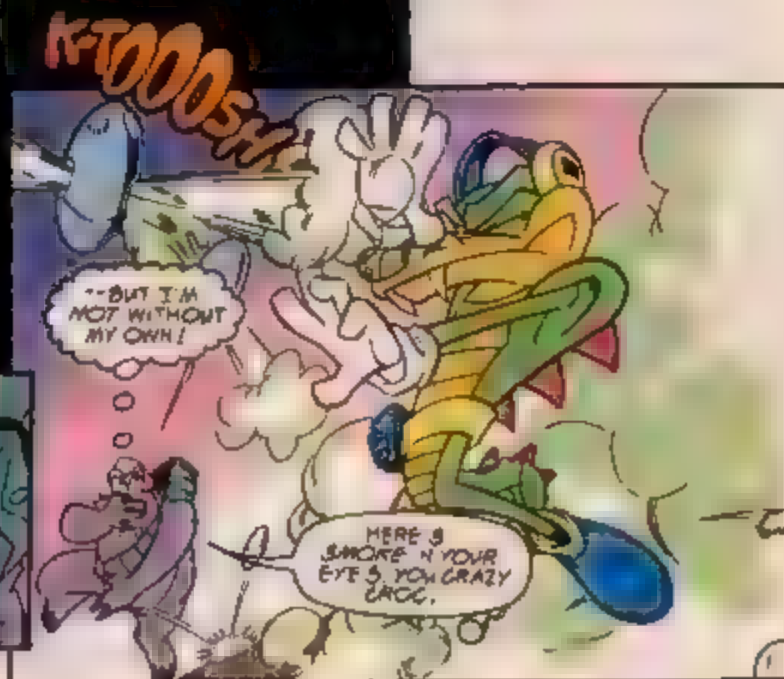
MY
FRIENDS,
THAT'S
WHAT

WOW!
THAT WAS
CLOSE!



FOR
FOR!

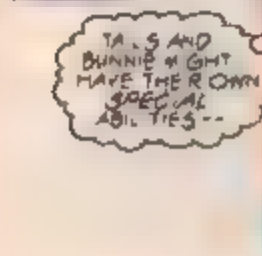
YOU'VE REALLY
GOT TO DO SOMETHIN'
ABOUT ALL THAT PENT-UP
HOSTILITY, SUH-OH!



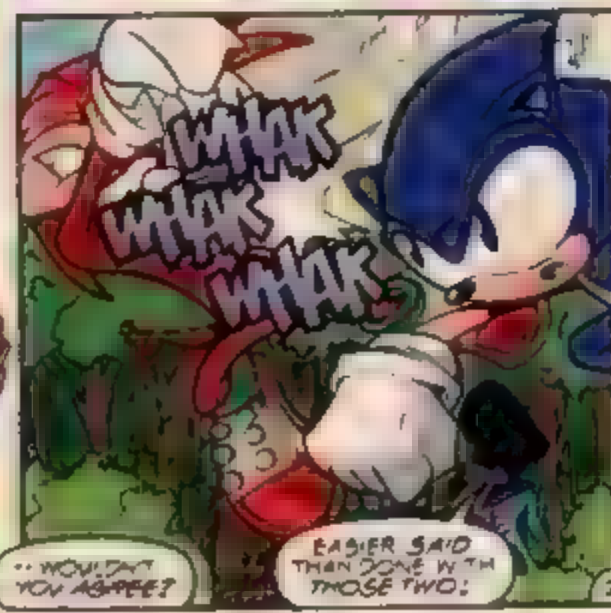
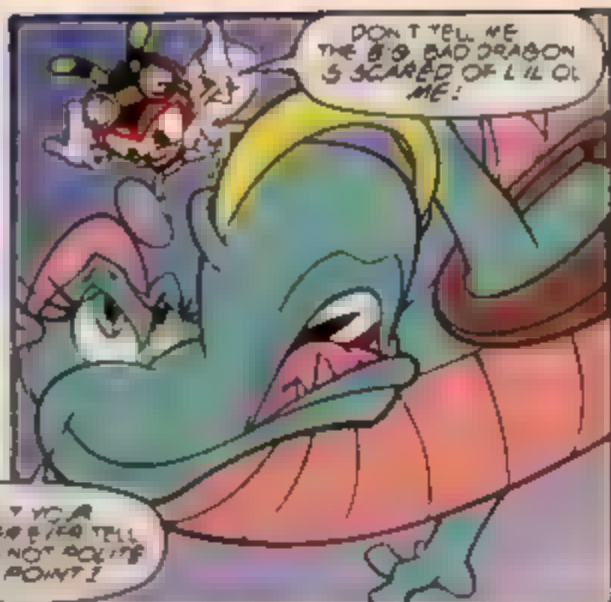
--BUT I AM
NOT WITHOUT
MY OWN!

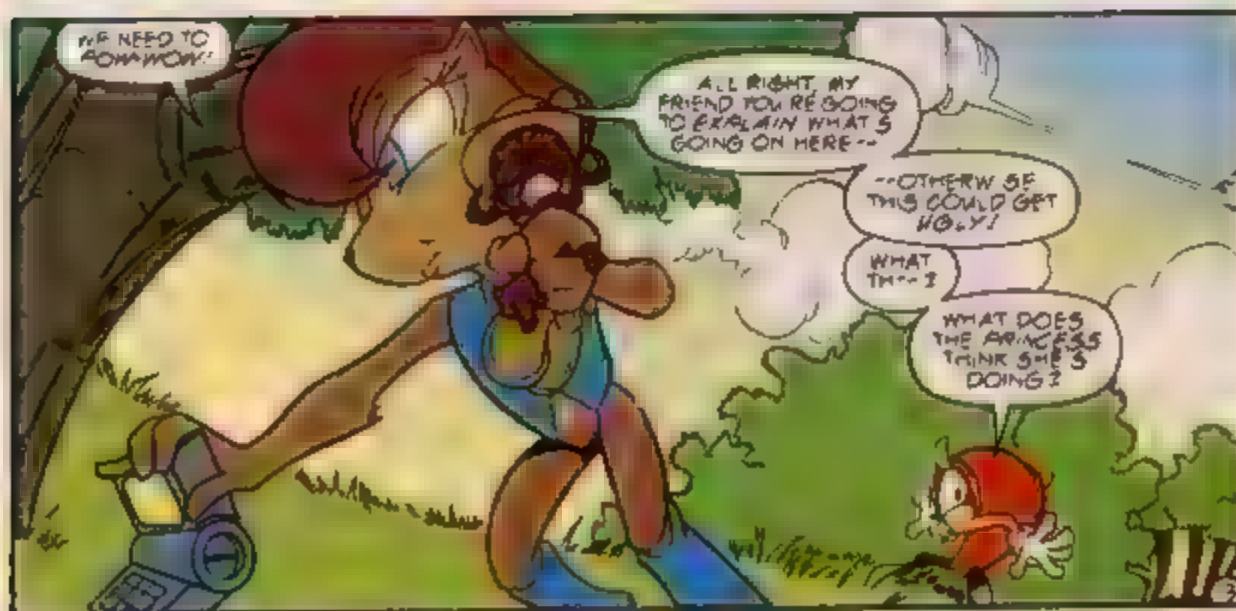
HERE'S
SMOKE IN YOUR
EYES, YOU CRAZY
CROC!

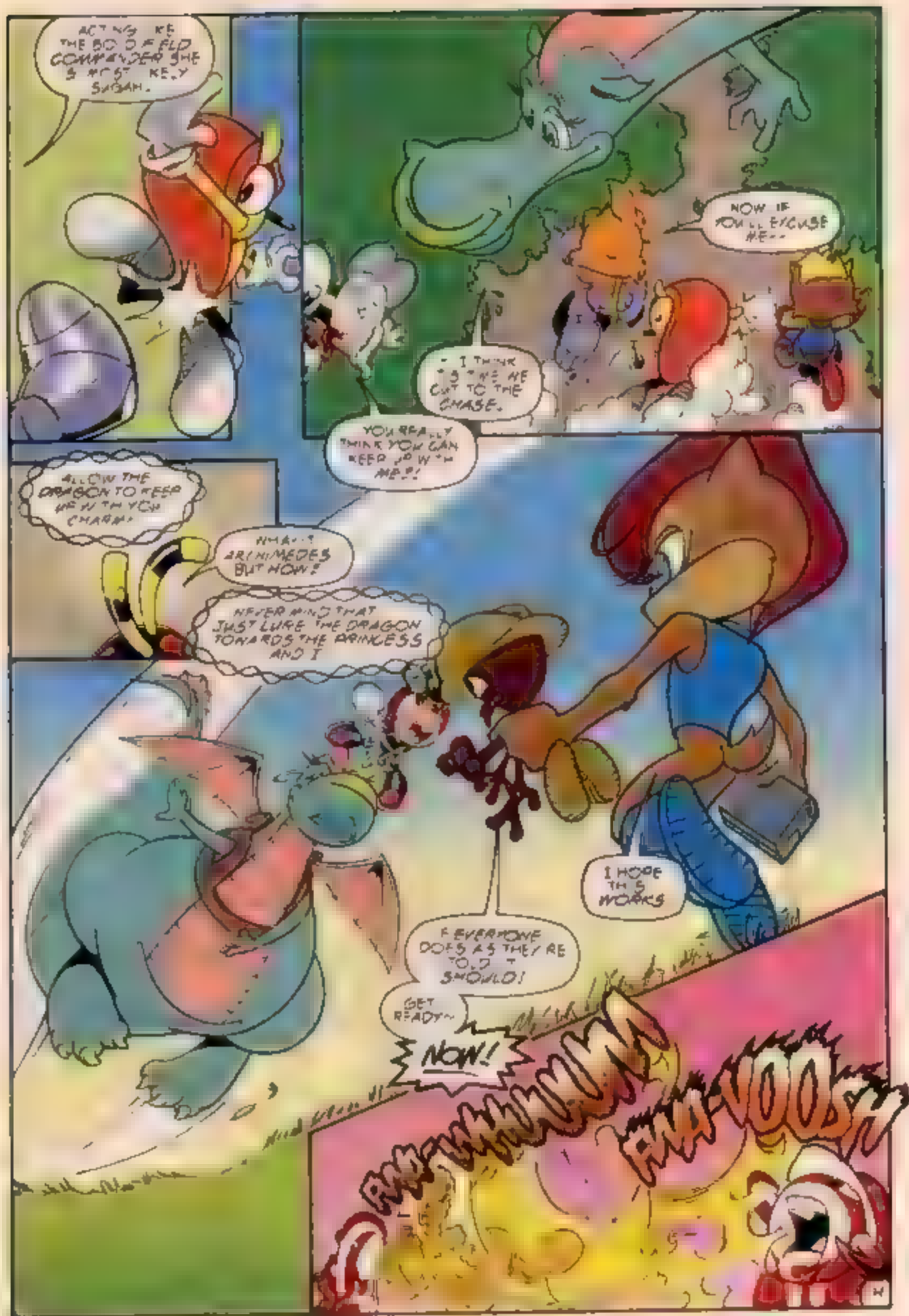
KTOOSH!



TALES AND
BUNNIES MIGHT
HAVE THEIR OWN
SPECIAL
ABILITIES--







FWATOOMTROOM

BA DHUUM

AT LAST...

VICTORY
IS MINE!

SAVOR THE
SWEET SMELL OF
SUCCESS MY MENACING
MINIONS

BEFORE LONG
THE WORLD SHALL
BE OURS!

DON'T YOU
THINK WE'RE
GETTING A LITTLE
AHEAD OF
OURSELVES?

INSOLANT
WRETCH!
YOU DARE
DOUBT MY
POWERS!

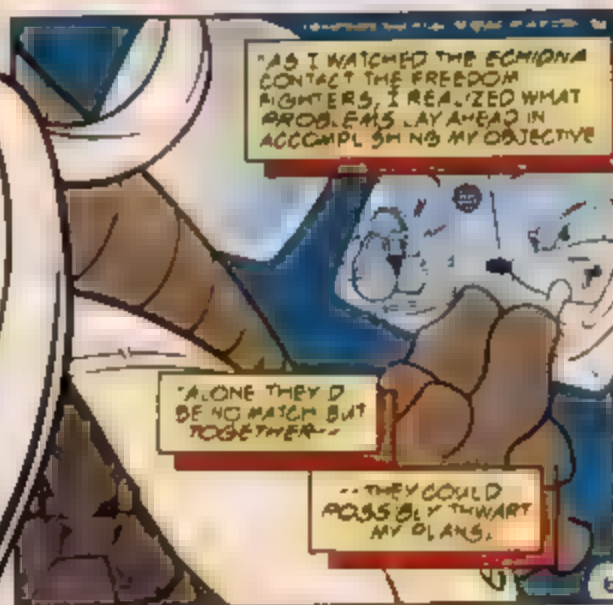
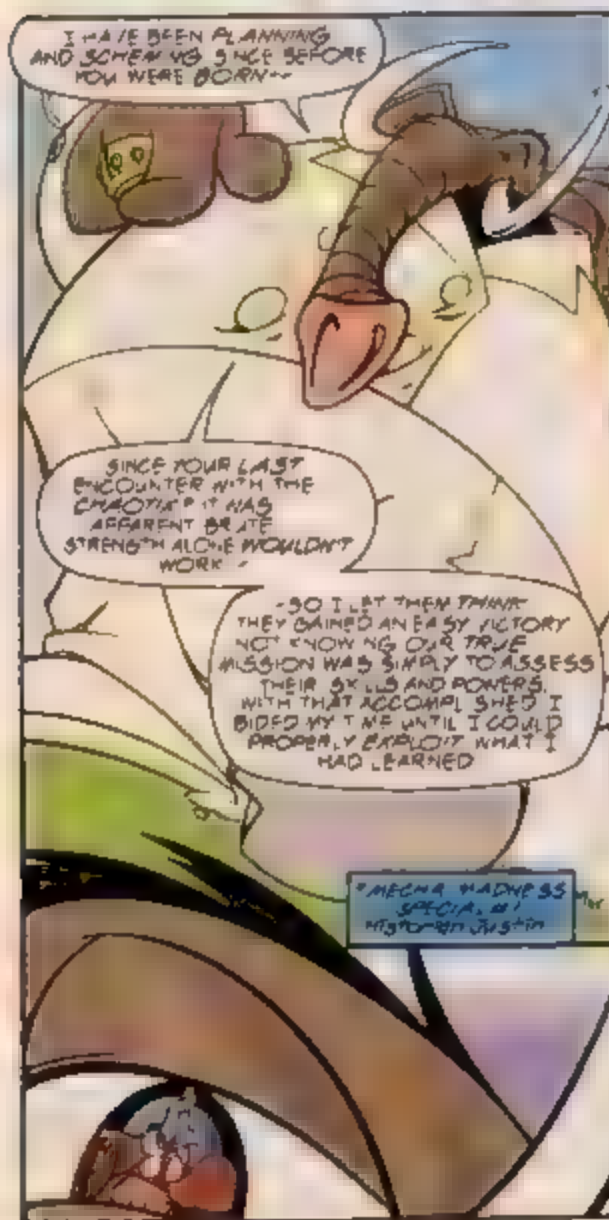
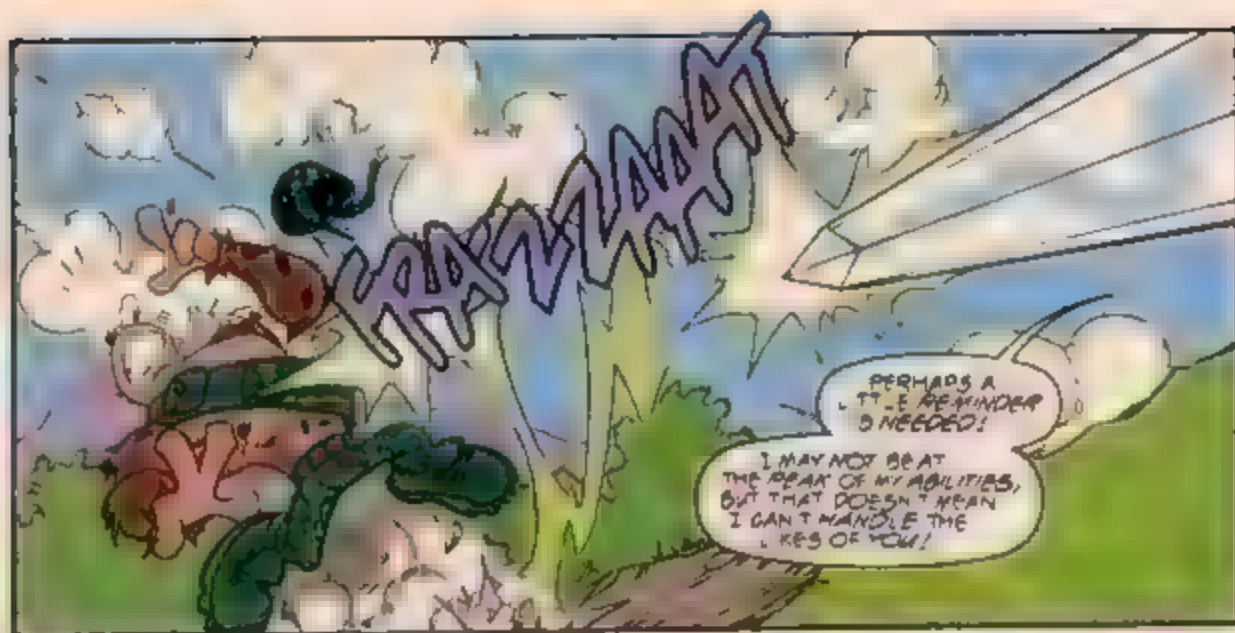
Hammoth Mogul

Sgt. Simian

Lightning Lynx

Flying Frog

Predator Hawk



"HAW" I SEIZED THE MOMENT
MAKING USE OF MY INSTINCTS ON C
ABILITIES TO ALTER THE REALITIES
OF MY MENTING FAVORS

"WHAT HE THEN THE WALRUS
OR ECH DNA REALIZED WAS
THAT THEY WERE WATCHING
IMAGES GENERATED THROUGH
MY THOUGHT WAVES

I CONTROL
THE HORIZONTAL--
I CONTROL THE
VERTICAL--



"AND THE SLANDS
UNDER SIEGE AGAIN SO
FOR NOW WE'RE KEEPING
THE SWORD

NO D EASY
WE'RE C I R NAT
TO WELD

THERE WAS STILL DANGER THAT COOLER
HEADS WOULD PREPARE SO I CREATED THE
ILLUSION OF THE FEARSOME FOURSOME
AS MEMBERS OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
AND THE CHAOTIX IN ORDER TO FAN THE
FLAMES OF A STRIFE BETWEEN THE
OPPOSING SIDES

"AND YOU'RE TAKEN
TOO LONG TO RETURN
THE SWORD - WE'RE
COMING FOR YOU!

WHAT ARE
YOU JABBERING
ABOUT?

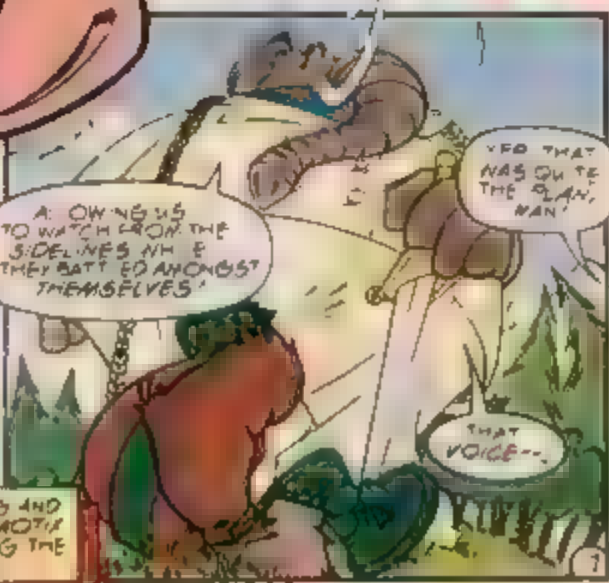


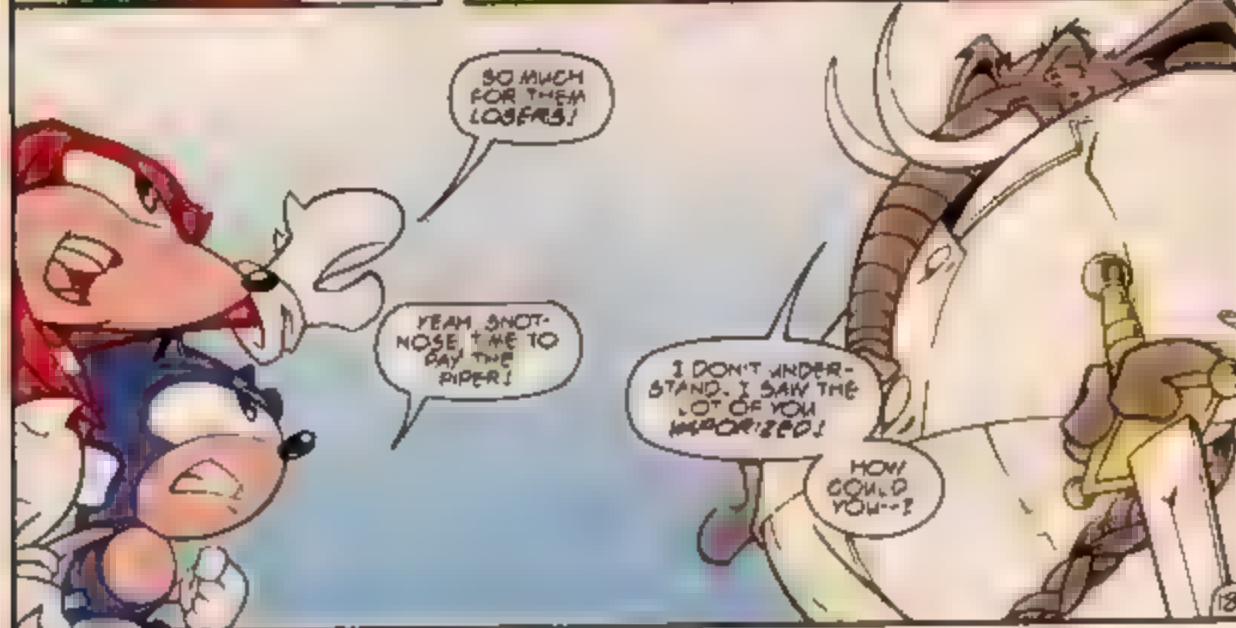
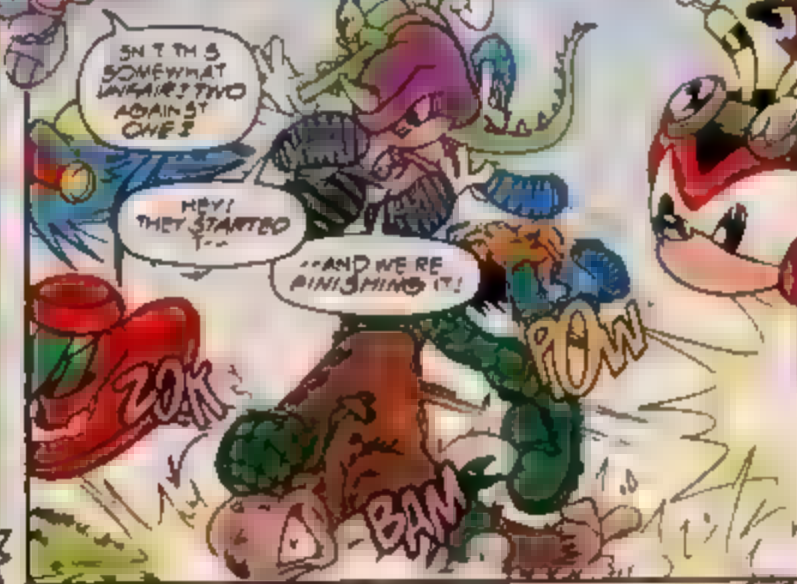
A OWNING US
TO WATCH FROM THE
SIDELINES WHILE
THEY BATTLED AMONGST
THEMSELVES

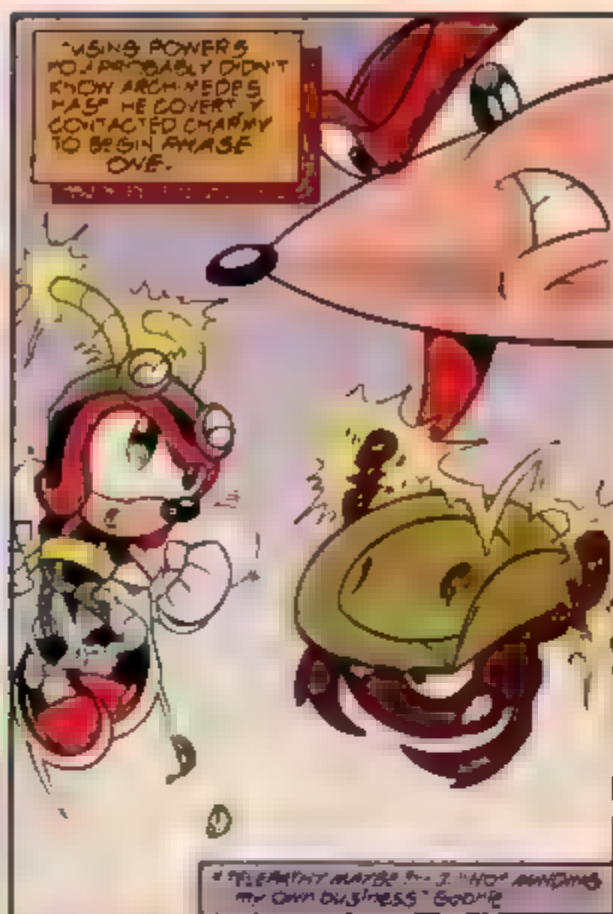
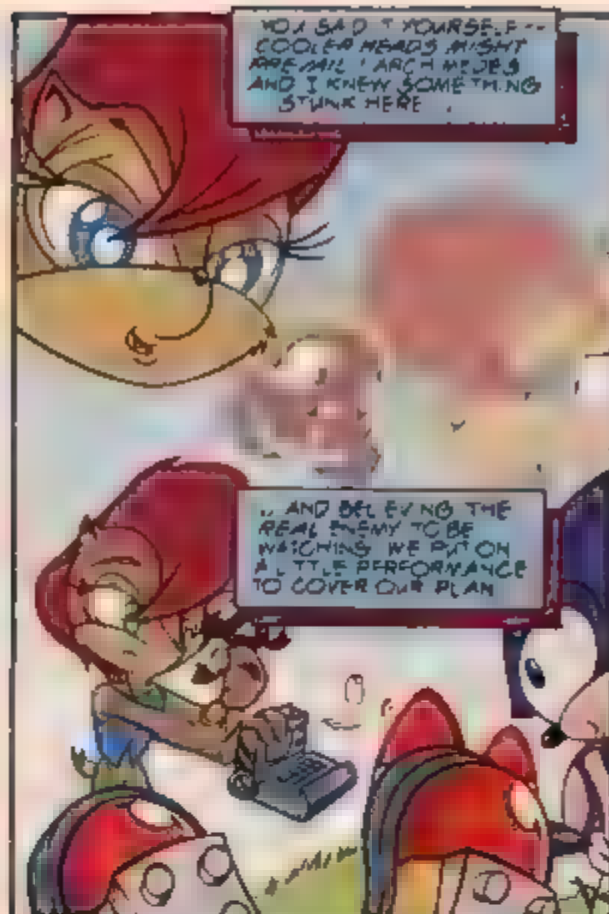
YED THAT
WAS ON THE
PLAN, MAN!

THAT
VOICE--

HAVING BAILED THE HEADLINGS AND
BEING THE THEN MADE THE CHAOTIX
BELIEVE THE WORST CONCERNING THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS--







CAUSE YOU DIDN'T DO YOUR HOMEWORK MIGHTY SAID THAT THE POWERS OF THE NEARBY ARCHIMEDES HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE"

AND YOU MAY HAVE DISGUISED YOUR SOLDIERS BUT YOU DIDN'T DISGUISE THEIR POWERS...

"BUT THE CHAOTIX KNOW THAT ARCHY HAS TO TOUCH YOU TO DO HIS VANISHING ROUT NE"

"EVERYONE KNOWS AM ONLY HAVE SUPER STRENGTH IN MY LEFT ARM"

*CHECK OUT PAGE 4, PANE 5 & THAT'S MINI SERIES #3!

*CHECK OUT PAGE 6, PANE 3

AND WHILE YOUR GUY WAS O.K. HE WAS NOWHERE NEAR THE SPEED OF THE BLUE DOORBALL."

*PAGE 6, PANE 6

AND NOW COME ONLY FOUR OF SIX CHAOTIX ATTACKED US?!

AND NOW COME SEVEN E'S LANDED BUT ONLY FOUR ATTACKED US?!

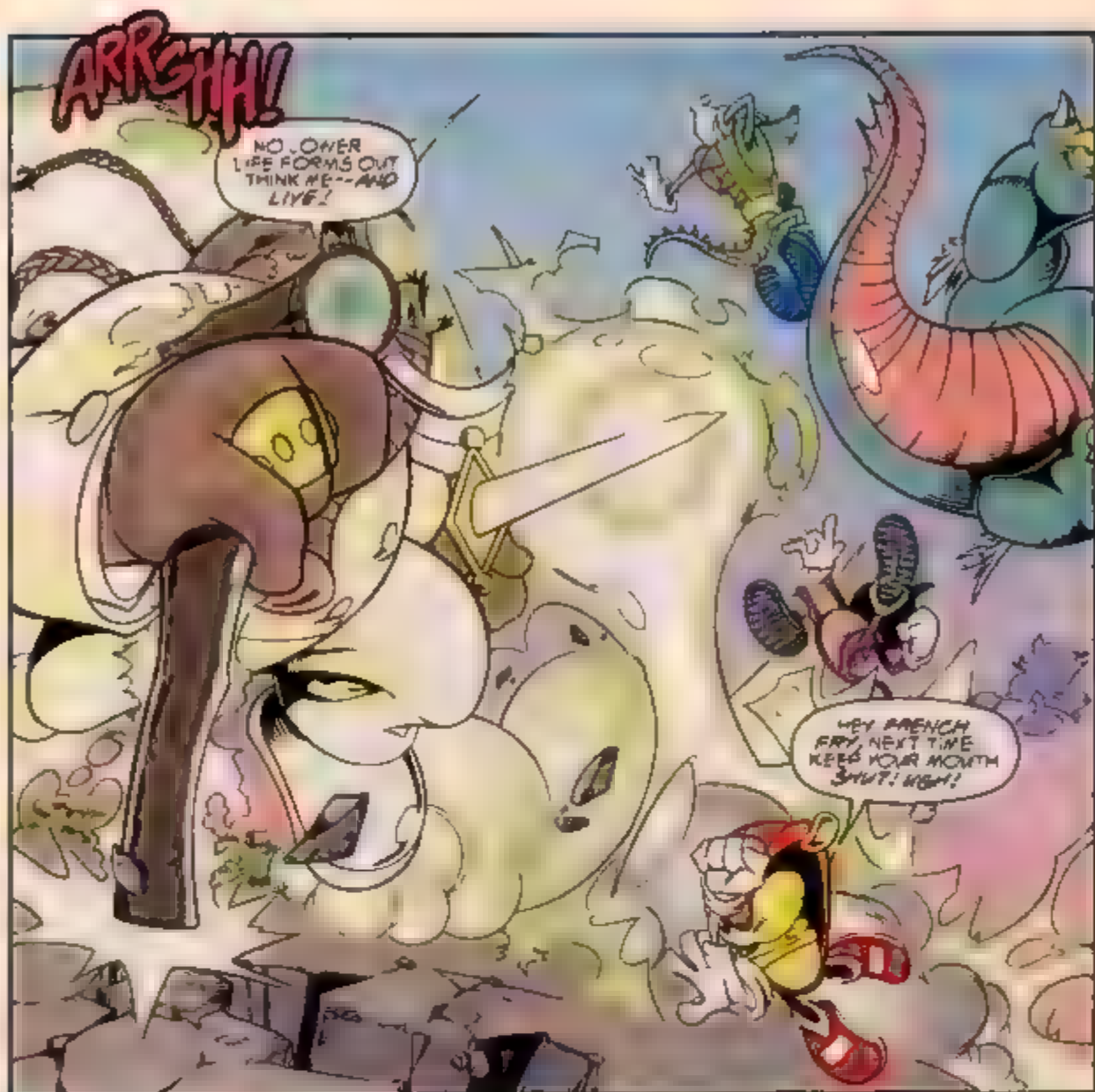
ALSO NO WAY MIGHTY WOULD HAVE ATTACKED ME WITH-OUT TALKING FIRST "OR AT LEAST SAYING "HI!"

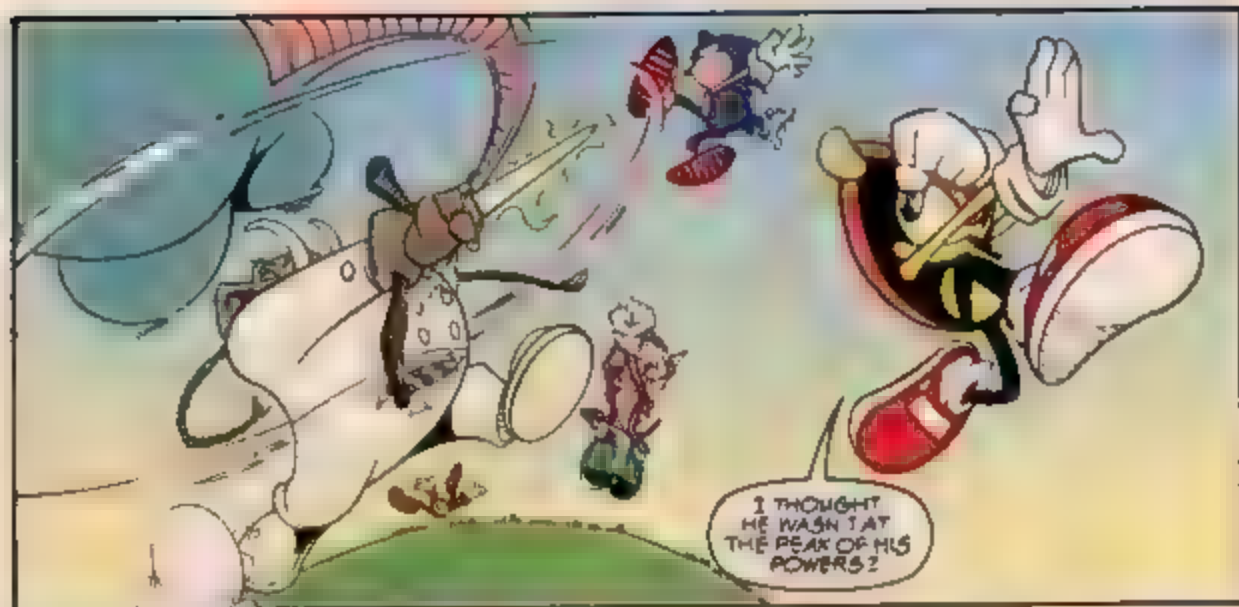
"Y SEE TALL DARK AND HAIRY WE'RE OLD PALS!"

20 B 6 JAMBO YOU ARE NOT ONLY ZEE B 6 PERSON BUT ALSO ZEE BIG FOOL!

NOW THAT YOUR SCHEME S KRAUT HAND OVER ZEE SWORD AND YOU WON'T BE HURT!

*WHEN & WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN? CHECK OUT FUTURE ISSUES OR SOME FOR THE STORY





WAAAAH

WOW BRING
TWO CHAOS EMERALDS
TOGETHER...

AND
THAT'S WHAT
YOU GET...
UTTER
CHAOS!

ALRIGHT!
HEBLEN HIM
OUT OF THE
UNIVERSE!

PRETTY SMART--
TAKING A CHANCE
ONE CHAOS EMERALD
MIGHT BLOW UP
ANOTHER!

IT WAS A
DESPERATE
GAMBLE AT
BEST!

DON'T SWEAT
IT SHORTY, IT PAID
OFF!

AND I
DID LEAVE
US WITH
THE SWORD
SO

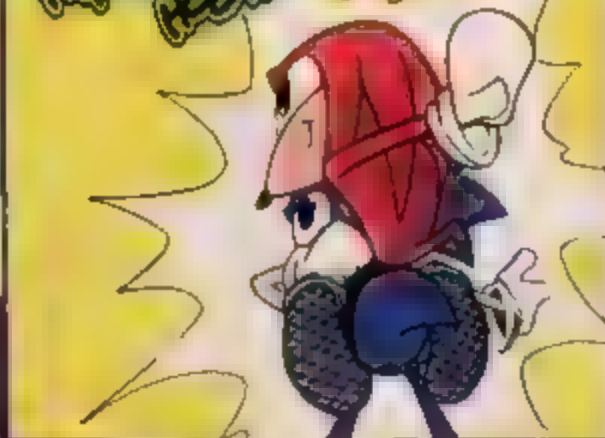
AS PER MY
SOLEMN VOW I
HUMBLY MAKE
GOOD MY
PROMISE!

AND FOR YOUR
COURAGE AND FORTI-
TUDE ON BEHALF OF
THE REALM...

I HEARBY DULY
KNIGHT YOU: YOU ARE
THE ISLAND'S GUARDIAN,
BUT WHEN A KNOTHOLE
YOU ARE NOW AND FOREVER-
MORE... SIR KNUCKLES!

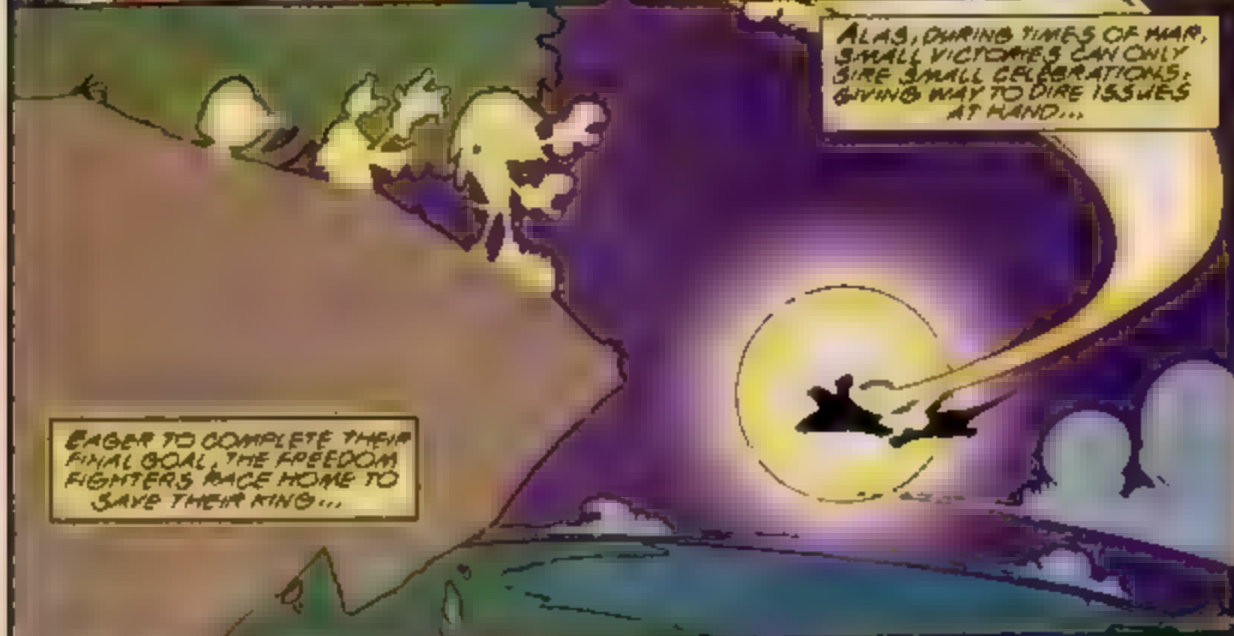


HIP HIP
HURRAY!



ALAS, DURING TIMES OF WAR,
SMALL VICTORIES CAN ONLY
GIVE SMALL CELEBRATIONS,
GIVING WAY TO DIRE ISSUES
AT HAND...

EAGER TO COMPLETE THEIR
FINAL GOAL, THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS RACE HOME TO
SAVE THEIR KING...



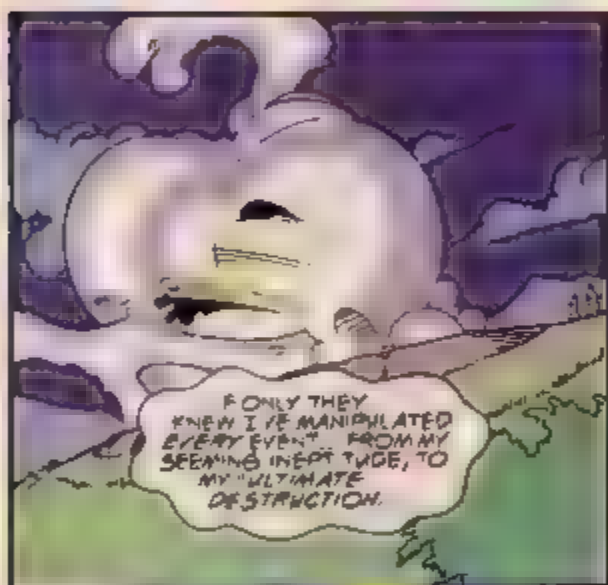
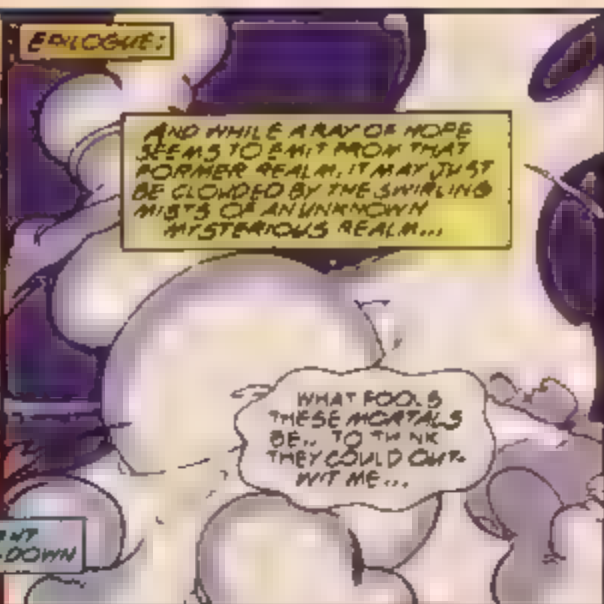
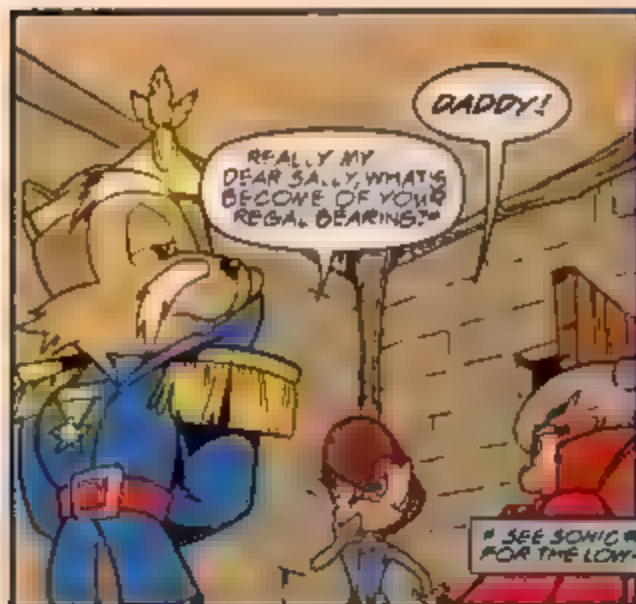
...NEVER SUSPECTING THAT
WHICH AWAITED THEM IN
THEIR SECRET SANCTUARY!

FOR CONTACT UNCLE
CHUCK! WITH HIS HELP,
I'M SURE WE CAN FINALLY
RETRIEVE THE CROWN OF
ACORNS! I'LL BEGIN MY RE-
SEARCH IN MY HUT WITH
NICOLE



PRINCESS
SALLY...I
COME
QUICK,
CHILD!





BATTLE ROYAL

mail

Battle Royal Mail c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.,
P.O. Box 419, Mandanville, NY 10545-0419

J. Freddy Sabrie
Editor

In four weeks, get set for the premiere of **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4** the ongoing series, starting a new chapter in the life of everyone's favorite Guardian of the Floating Island. In a three-part epic, "LOST PARADISE"

reunites Knuckles with the one person he never, ever expected to see. But an even bigger problem occurs when the fabled city of Echidnaopolis reappears, posing a threat to the Floating Island's eco-system. Don't miss the echidna excitement with regulars Ken Penders, Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy. In the tradition of the first three issues, every three-part story-arc will sport triple-combo covers by fan-fave Pal



"Spaz'ante along with inks by Ken Penders and colors by those maniacs at Heroic Age! Also look for a contest announcement in his letters page to commemorate his new ongoing series

In other Mobius news, in one week "End Game"

continues. The stakes between Robotnik and the Freedom Fighters reaches a fever-pitch. The now-healthy King Acorn loses his daughter in an attack on Robotropolis, and Sonic is arrested as the culprit responsible. Sonic escapes to clear his name. The King orders none other than Geoffrey St. John to track him down. That's when things get nasty. Read "Escape to the Floating Island!" in **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #49**, on sale May 1997! Whatever you do, don't miss this one!

Look out for the next Sonic Special coming your way in four months time **SONIC SPECIAL '97: A BRAVE NEW WORLD #1!** 'Nuff said!

JEFF

P.S.: Attention! Attention! Mike Wallis' name was spelled incorrectly in the "SONIC BLAST" Special #1 credits page. Sorry, Mike



On sale MAY 1997

THE FLIGHT OF THE FREEDOM FRONTIER IS A NEVER-ENDING ONE. EACH TIMES FINDING A WAY TO STOP ROBOTNIK'S TERRORIZING OF THE FOREST EVERY SINGLE DAY. TODAY IS NO EXCEPTION.

FROM THE ANTOINE FILES!

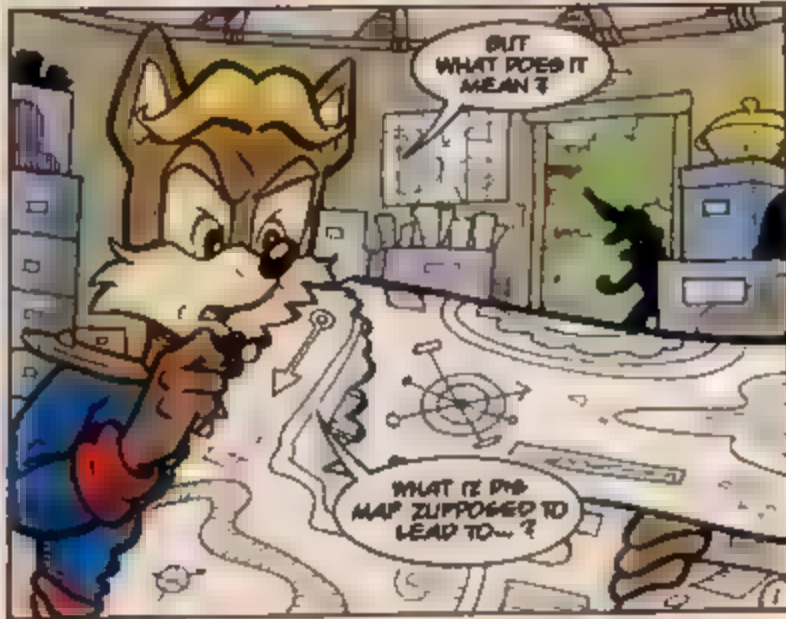
THE MAP

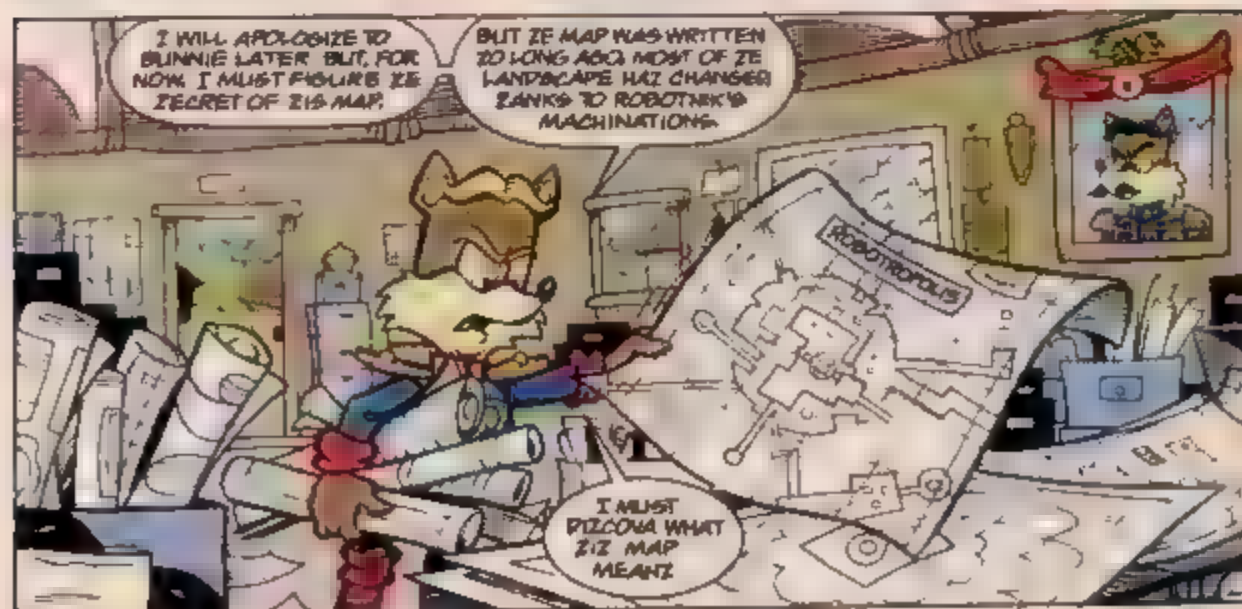
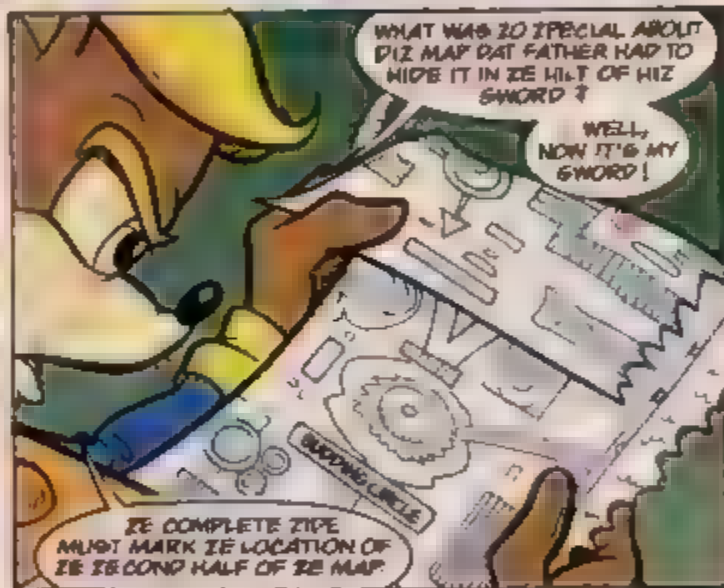
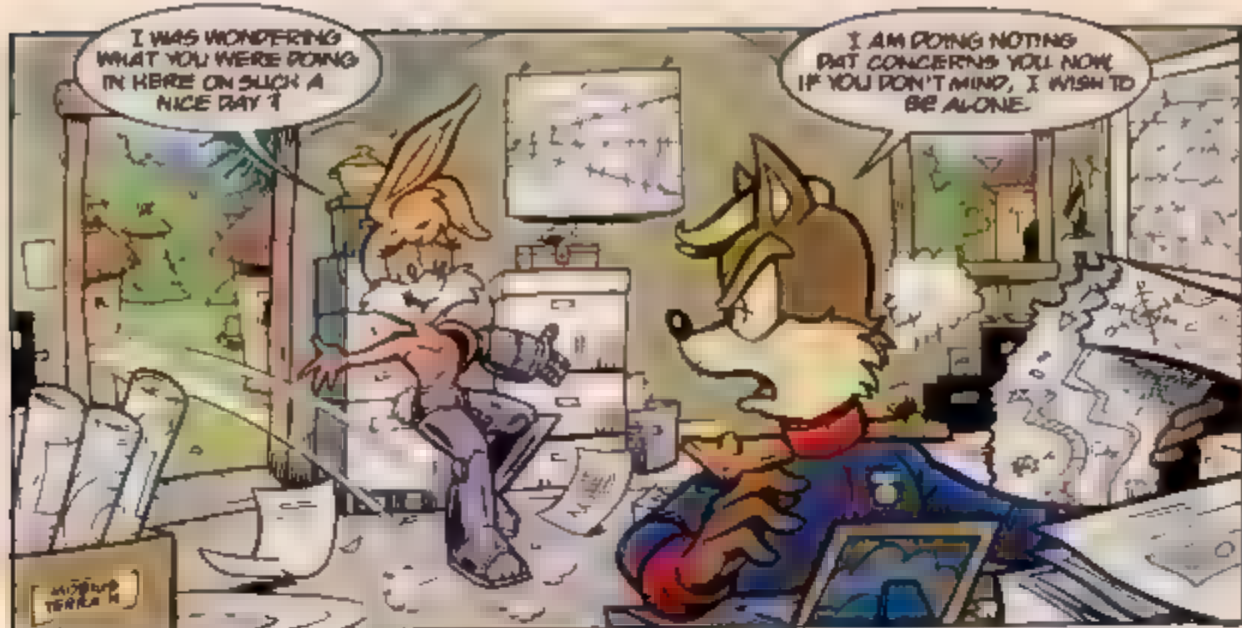
PART ONE

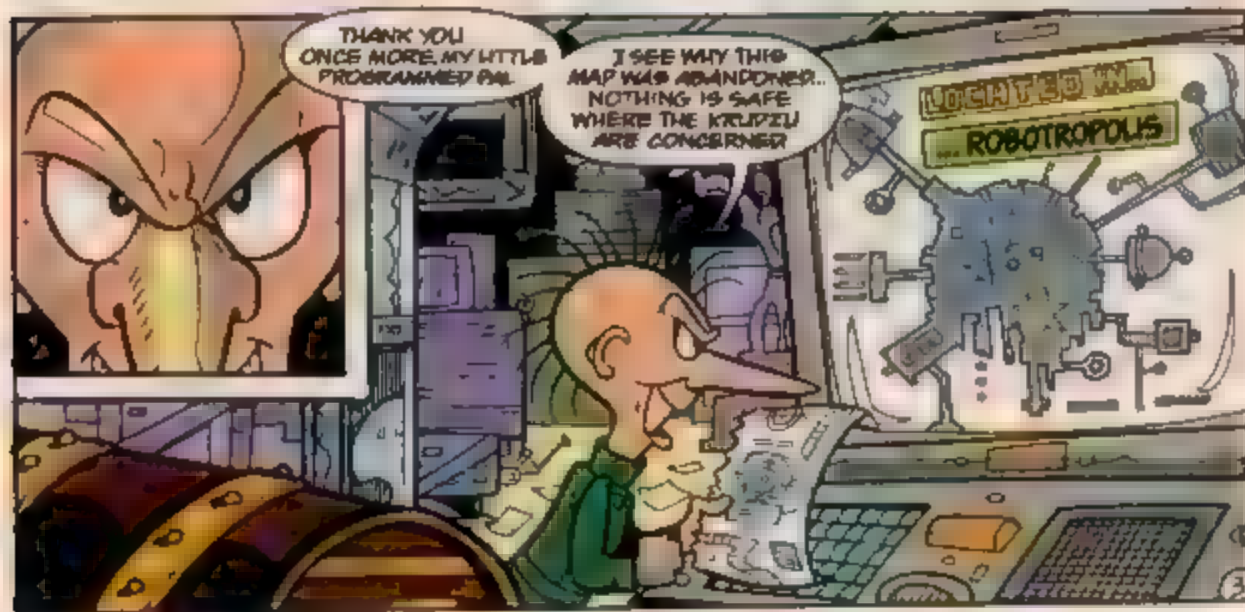
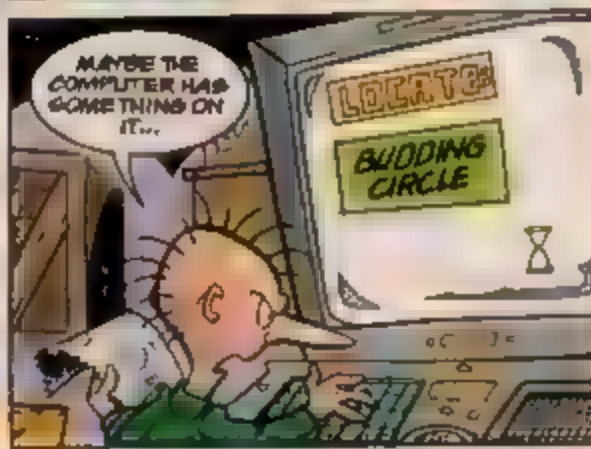
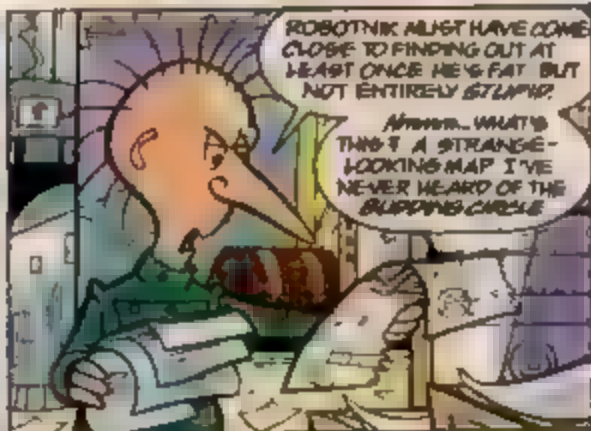
MY FATHER LEFT SO MUCH BEHIND I WISH HE WERE HERE TO HELP.

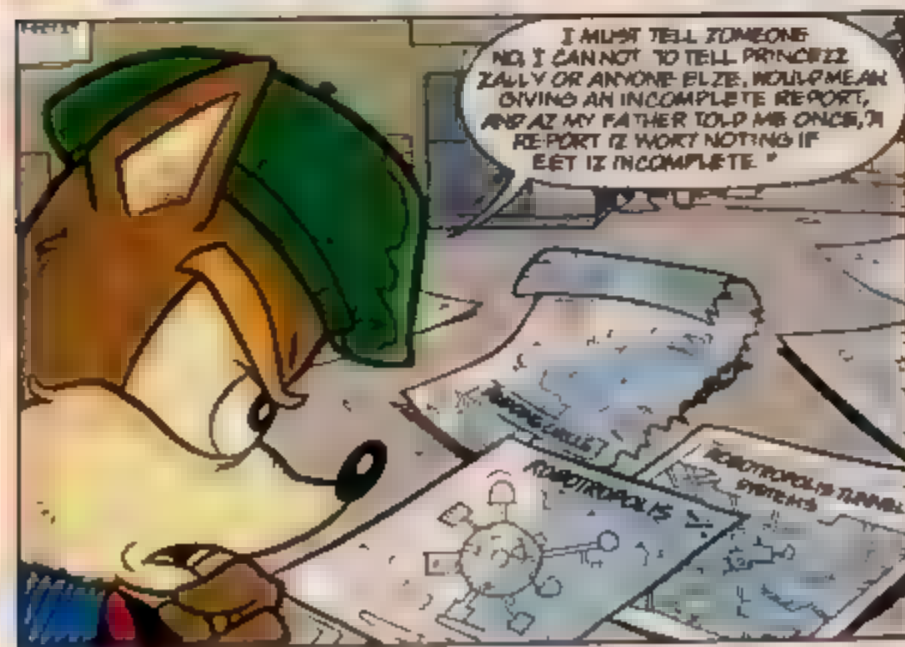
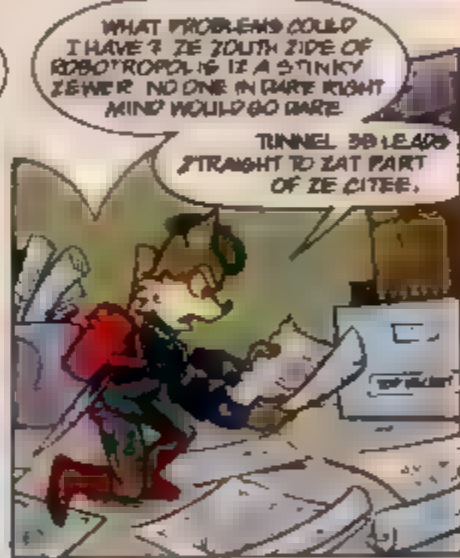
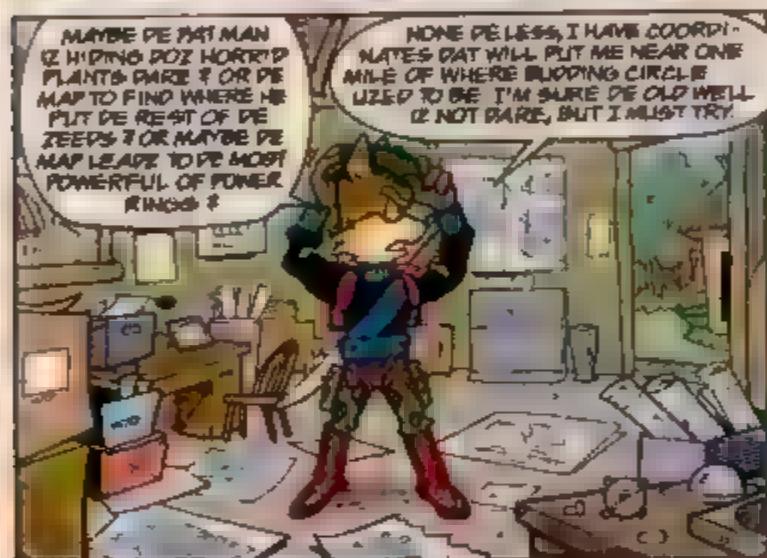
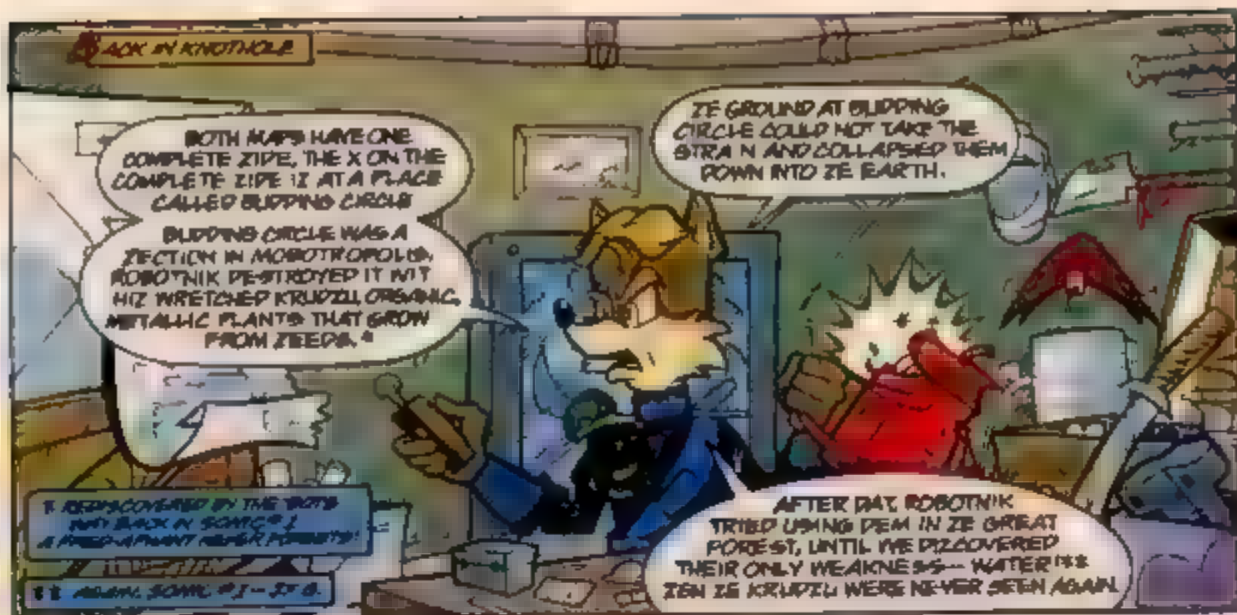
I WANT TO MAKE HIM PROUD IF HE COULD ONLY SEE.

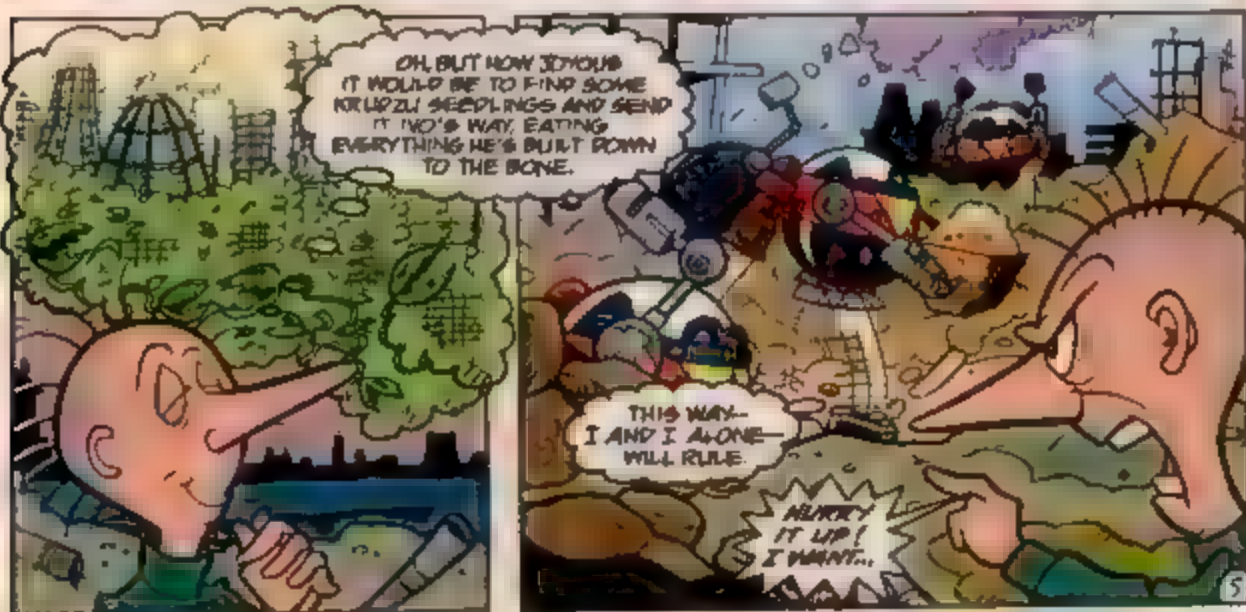
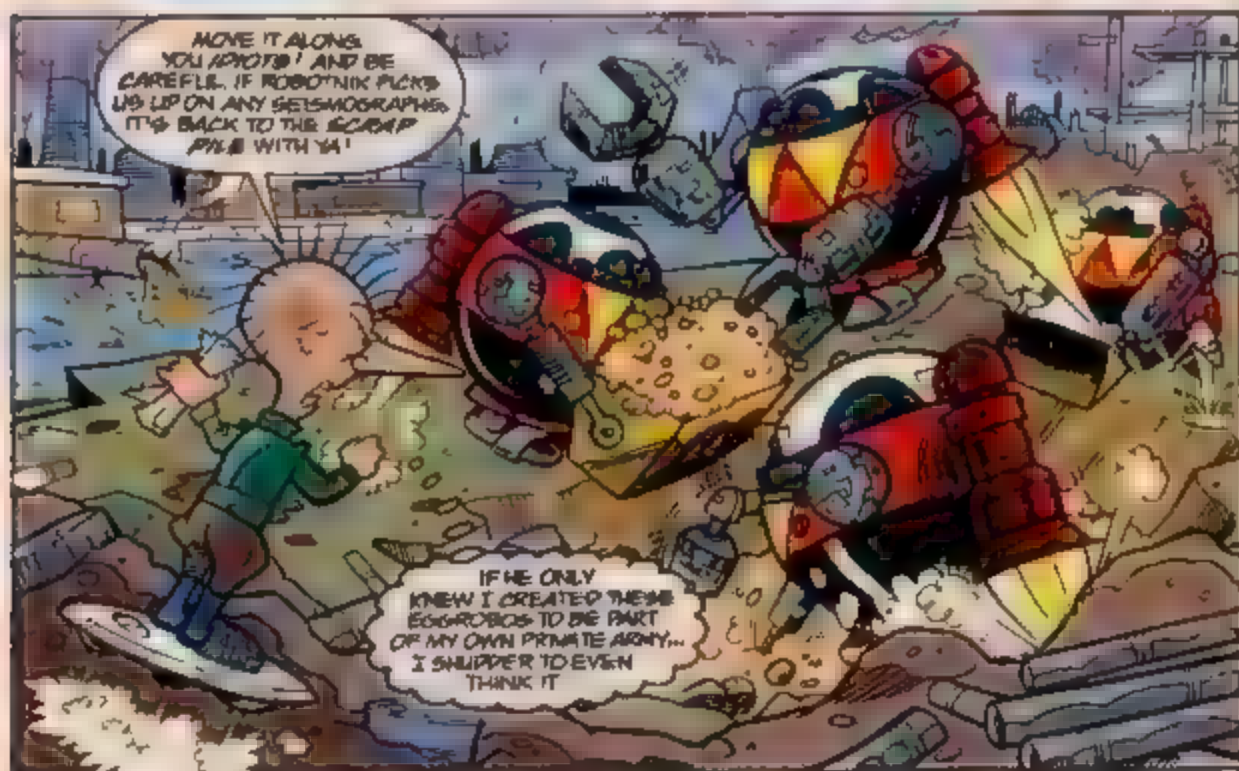
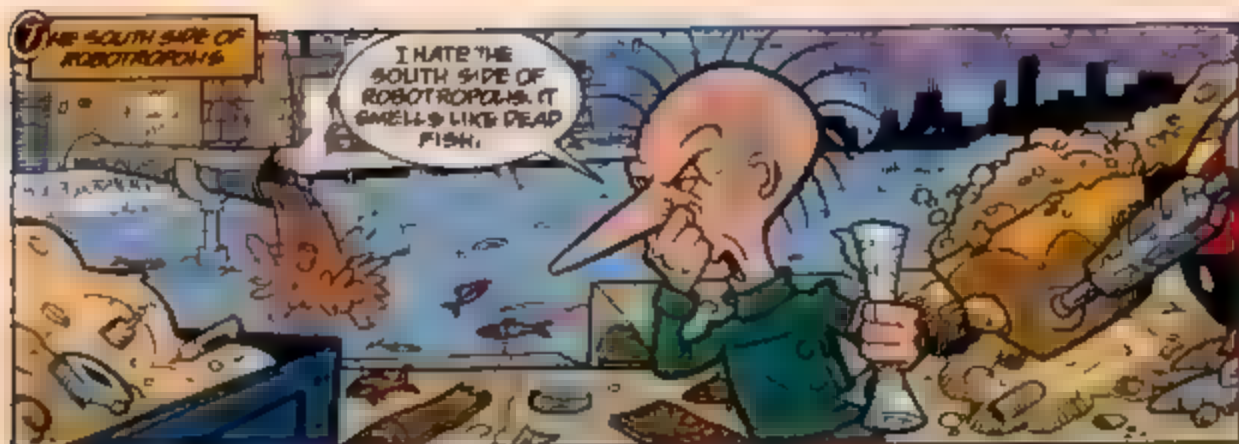
RECON MAPS

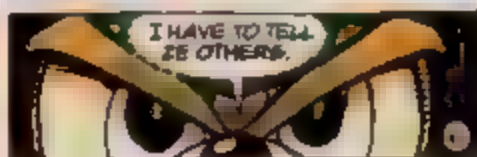
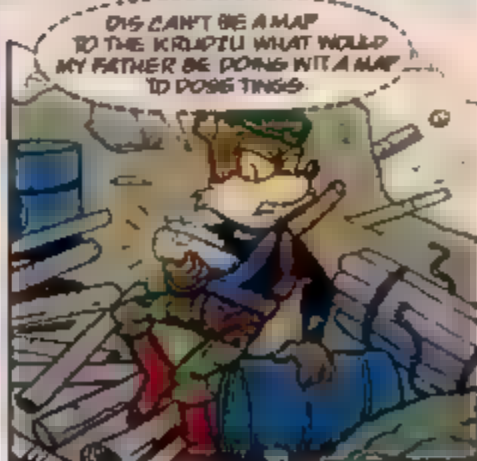
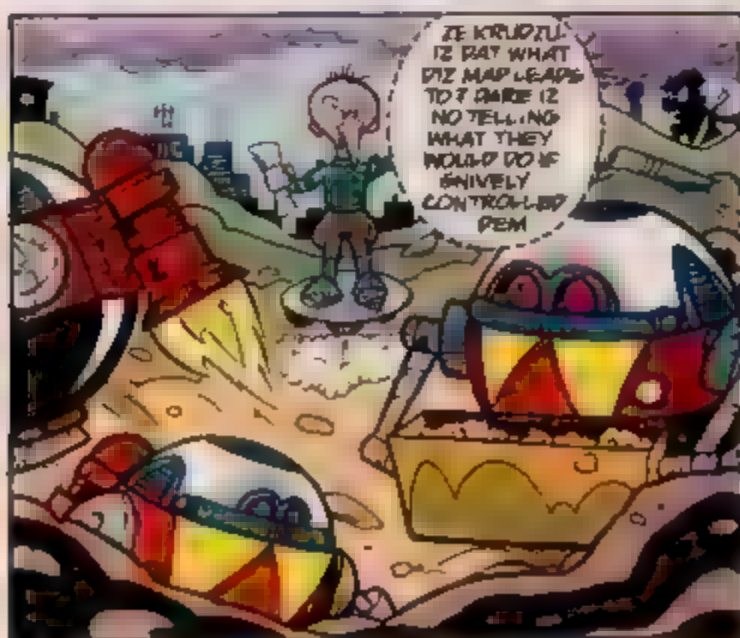
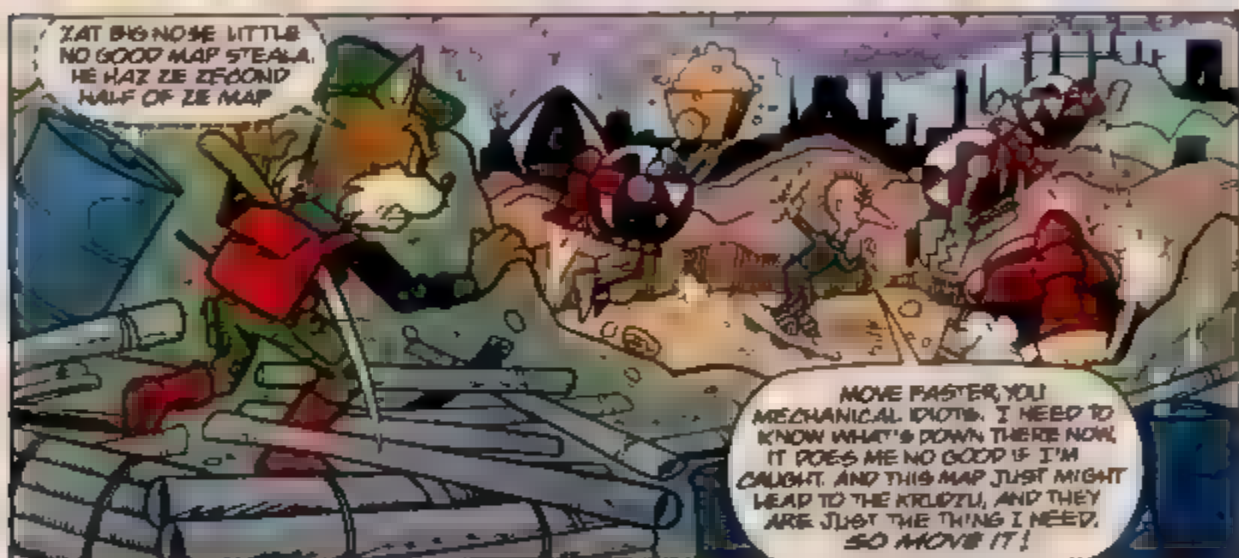
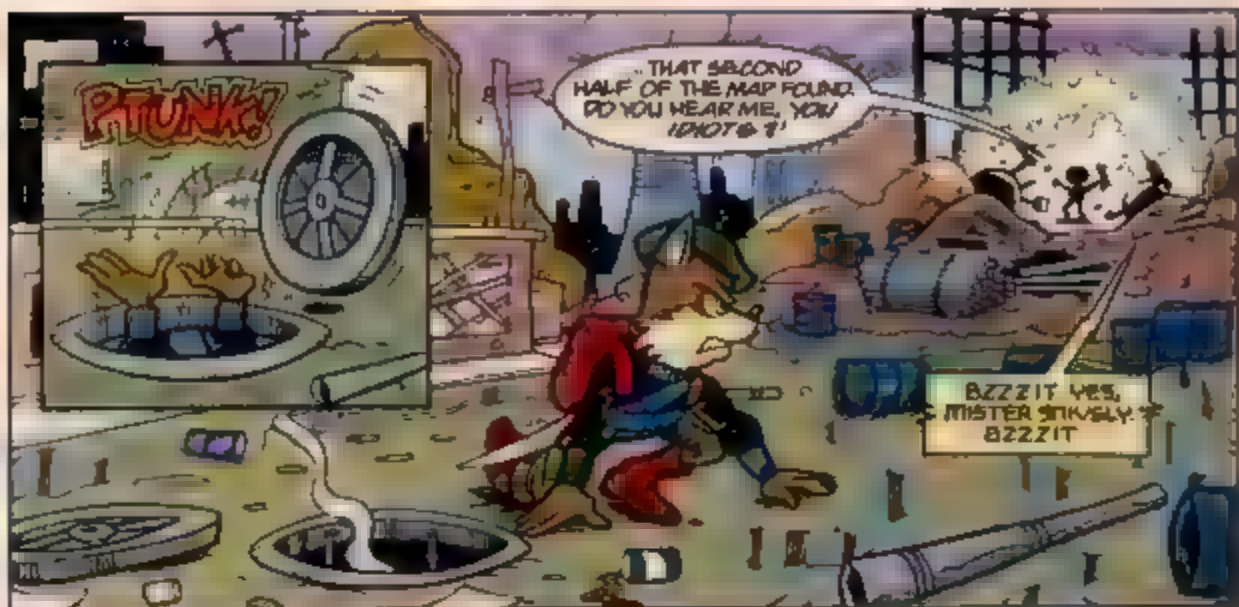


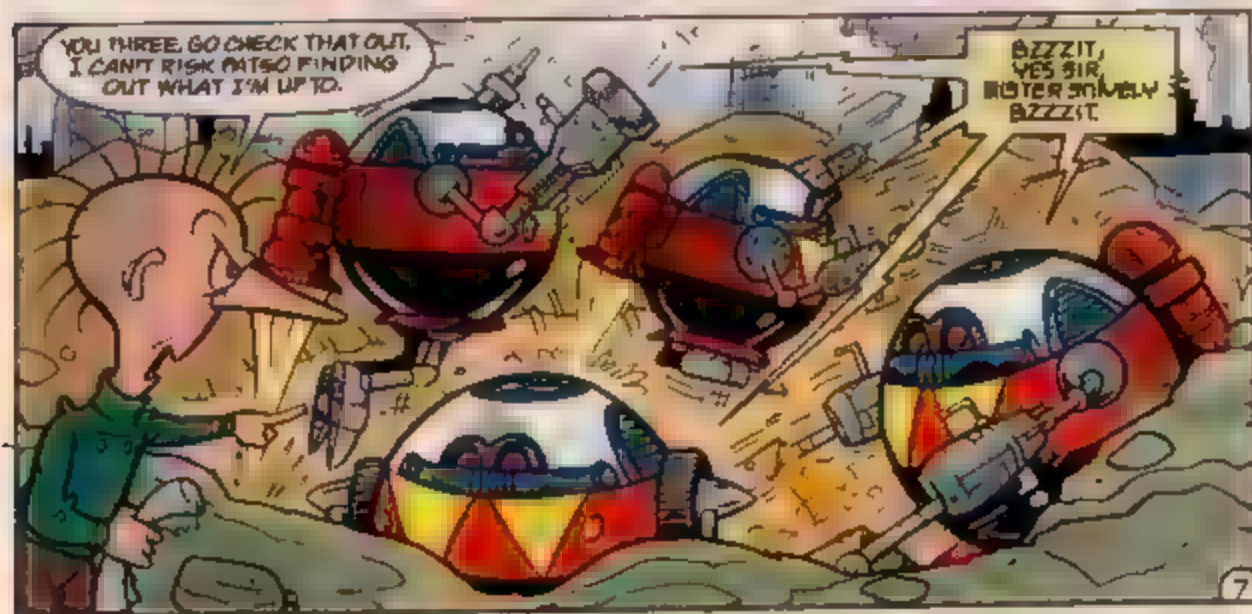
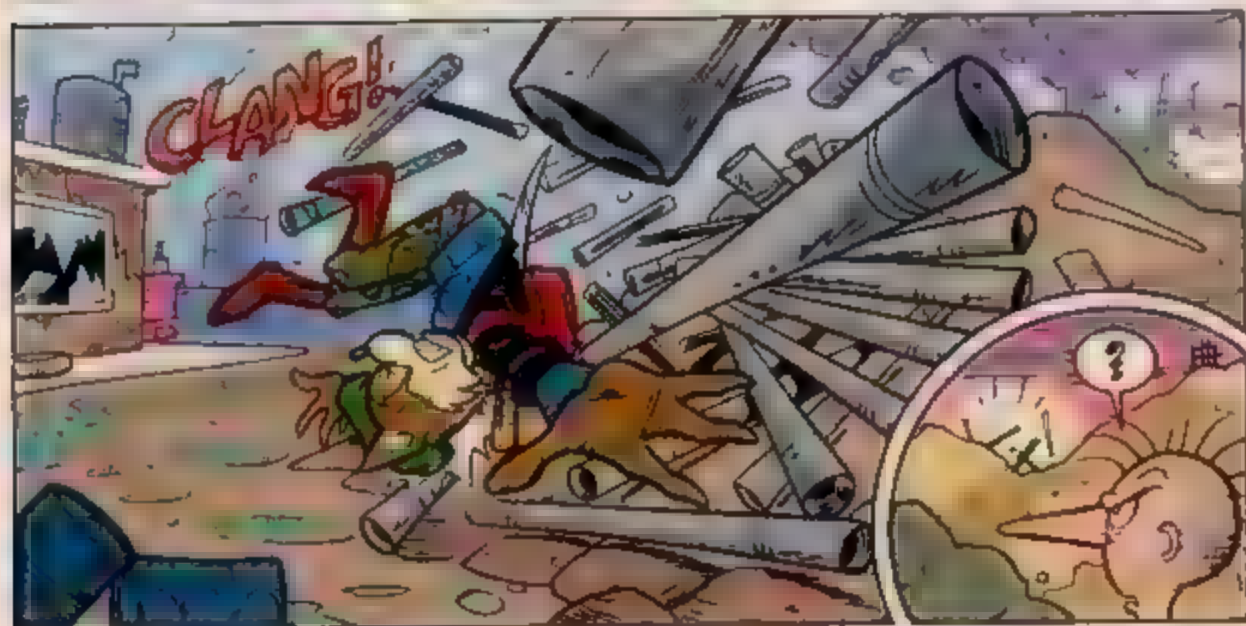


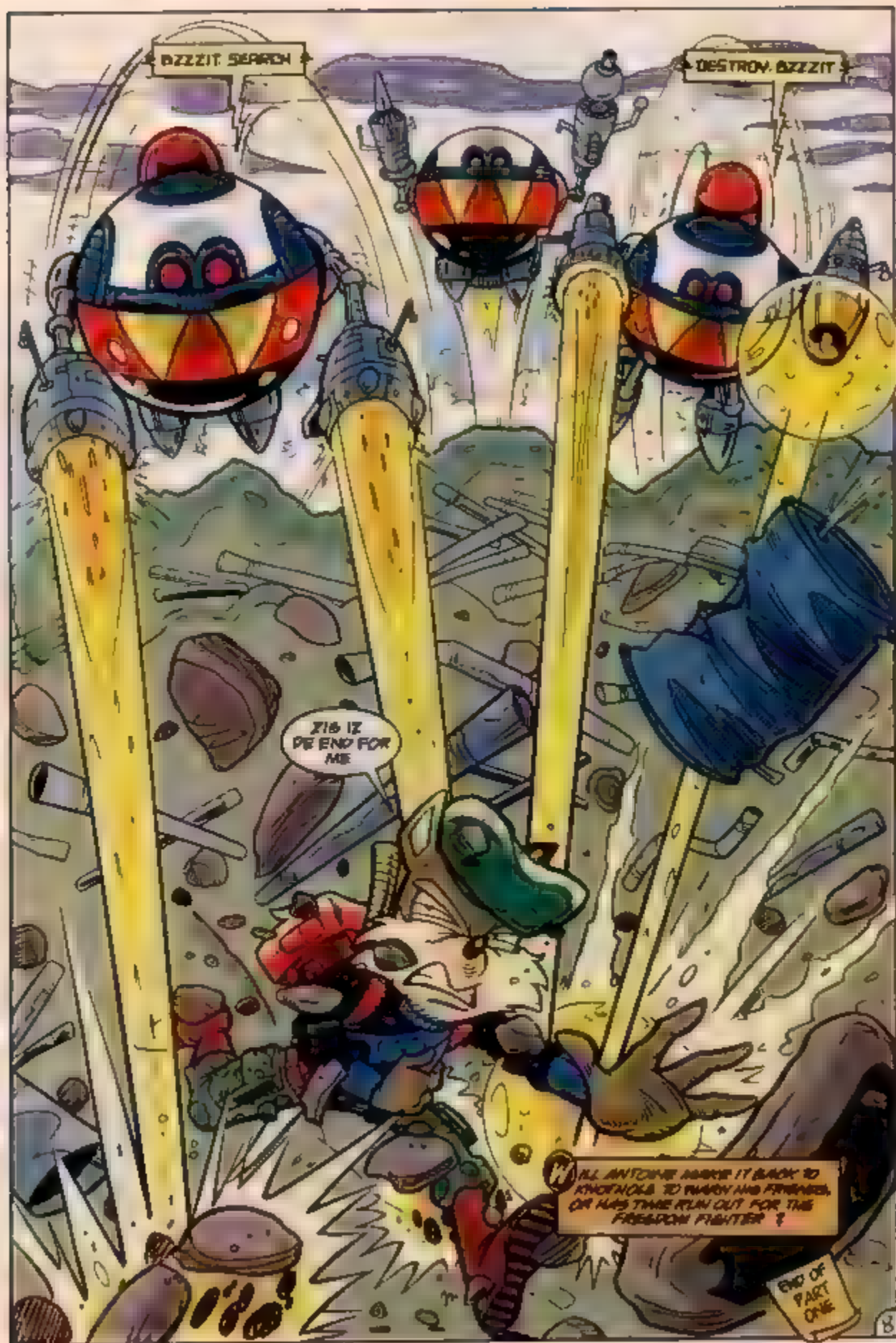


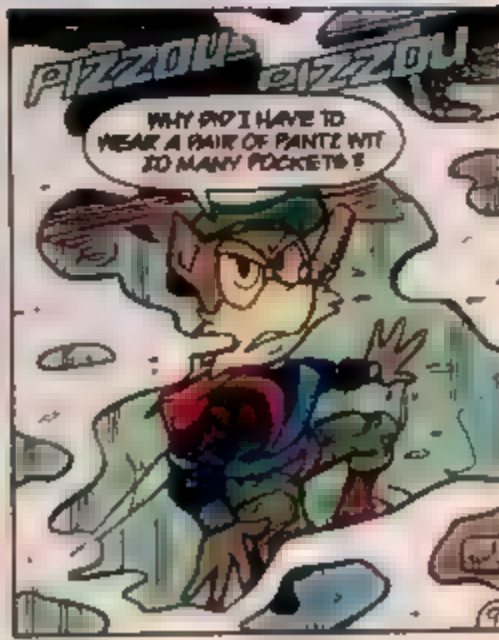
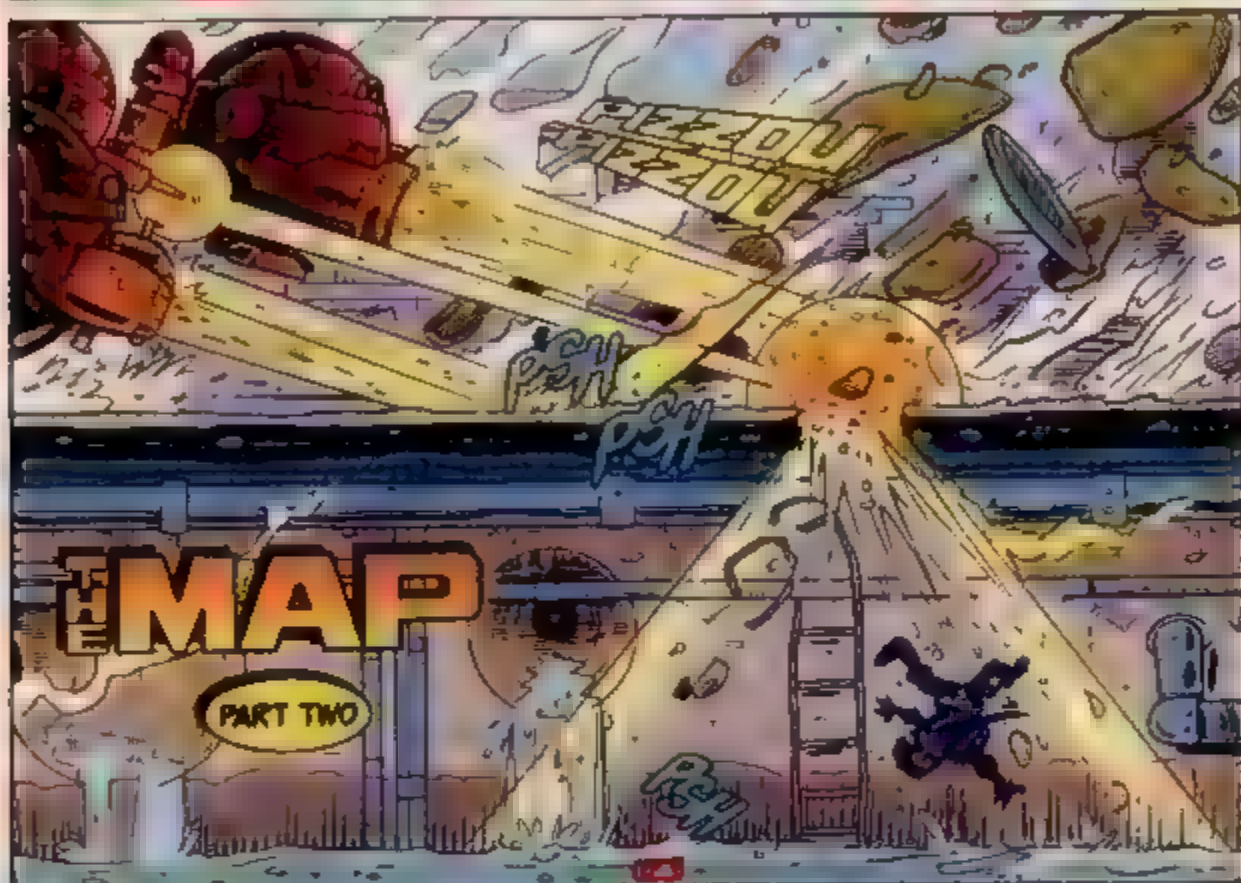














PERHAPS UNCLE CHUCK SHOULD HAVE MADE THIS THING SLIME PROOF, NO?

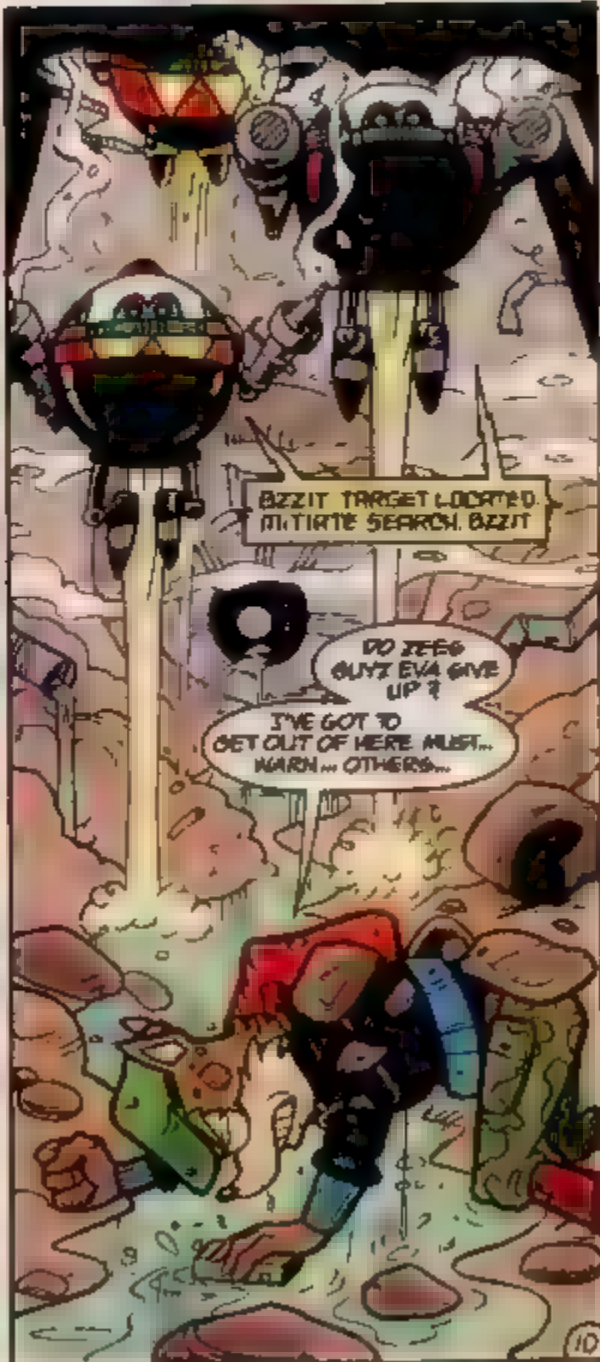
I MUST REMIND MYSELF TO ZANK UNCLE CHUCK FOR THIS LOCATOR DEVICE. IF I CAN ONLY GET IT TO WORK.



BZZ IT
WE HAVE A
LOCK ON TARGET
BZZ IT.



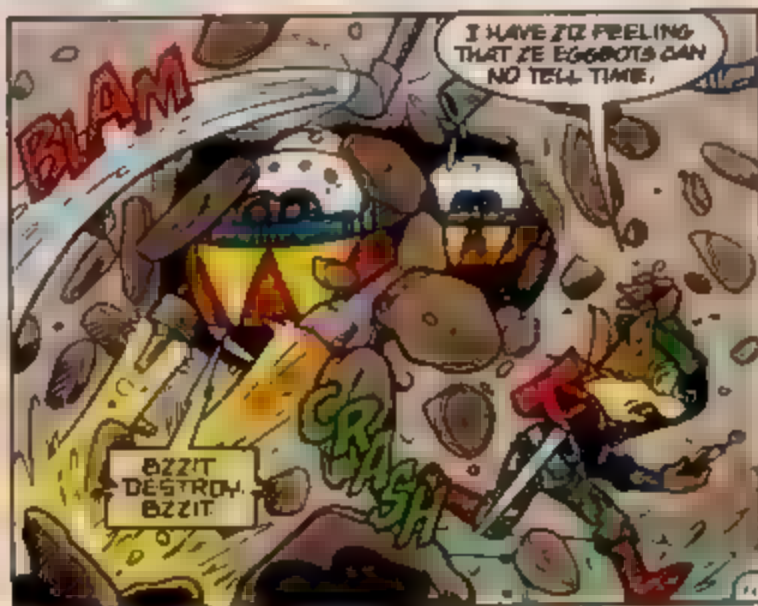
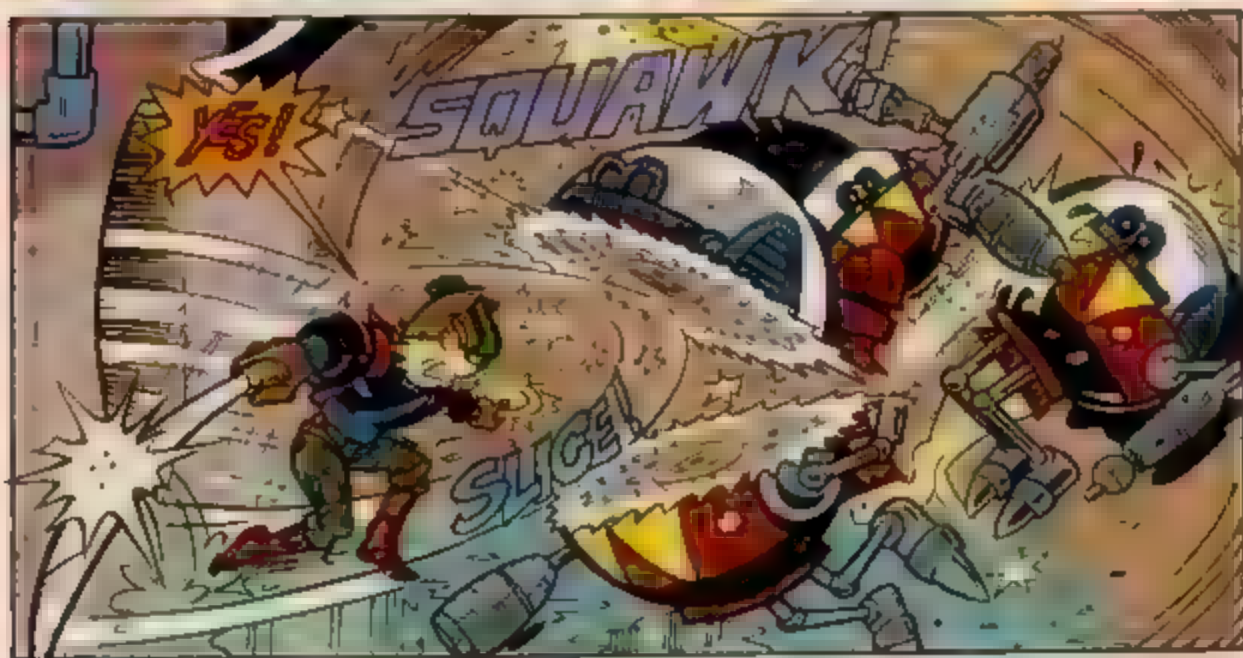
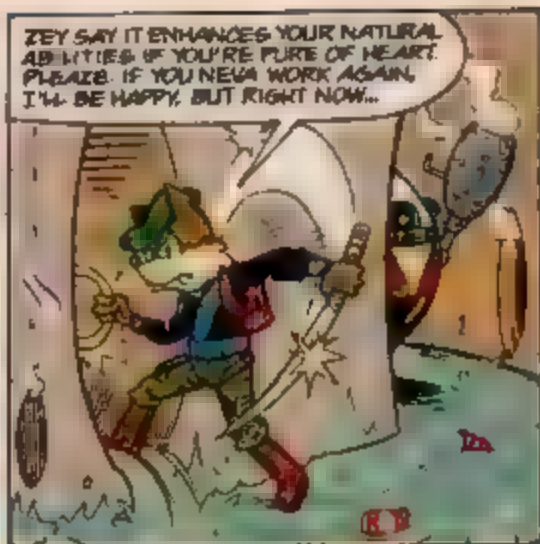
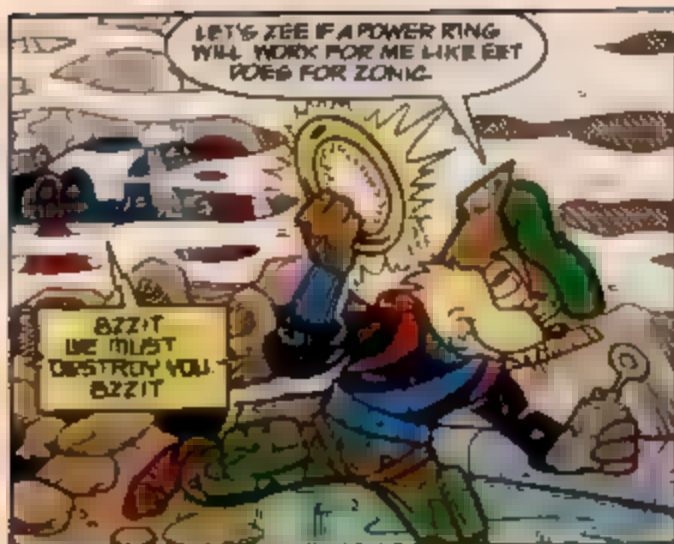
ZONK WOULD SAY
SOMETHING SNAPPY RIGHT
NOW, BUT I CAN NO TINK
OF ANYTHING.

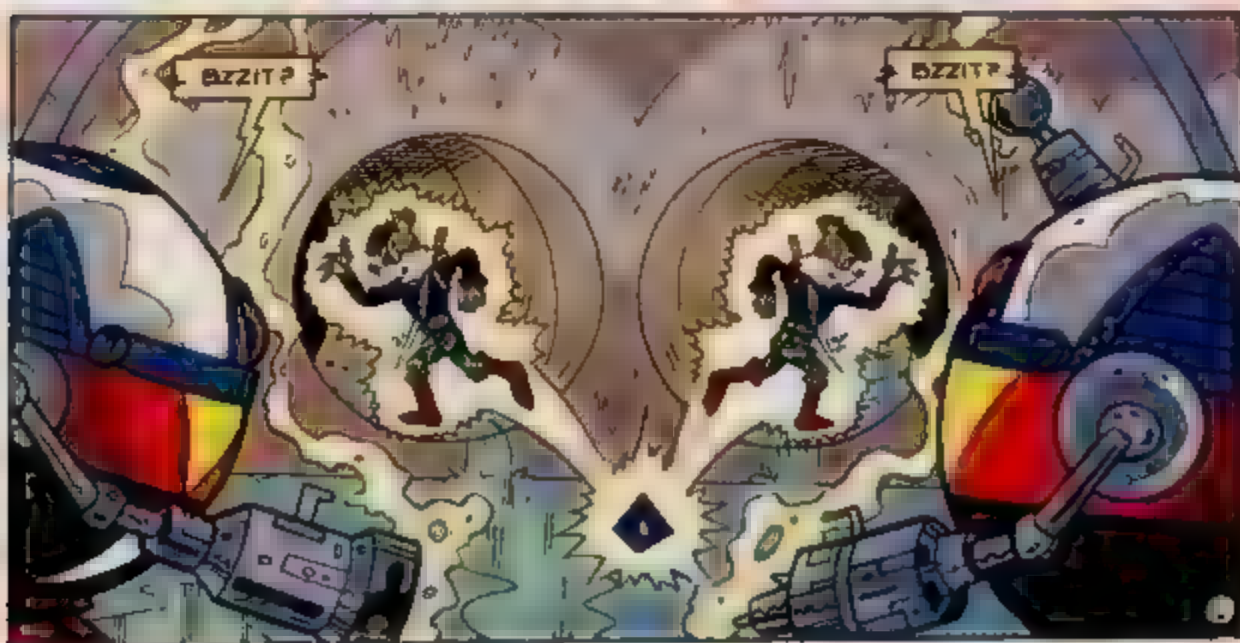
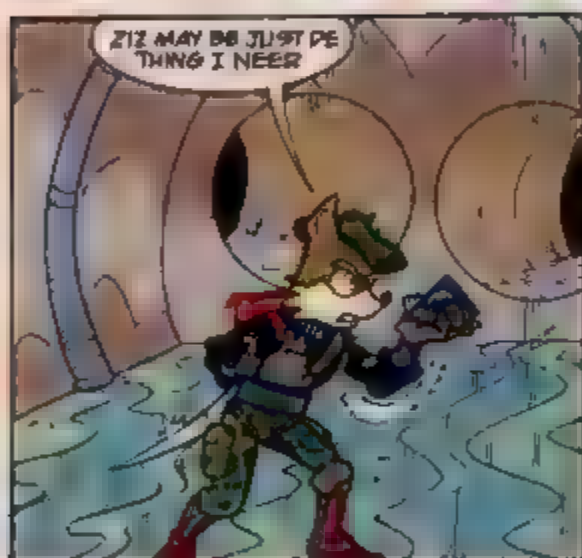
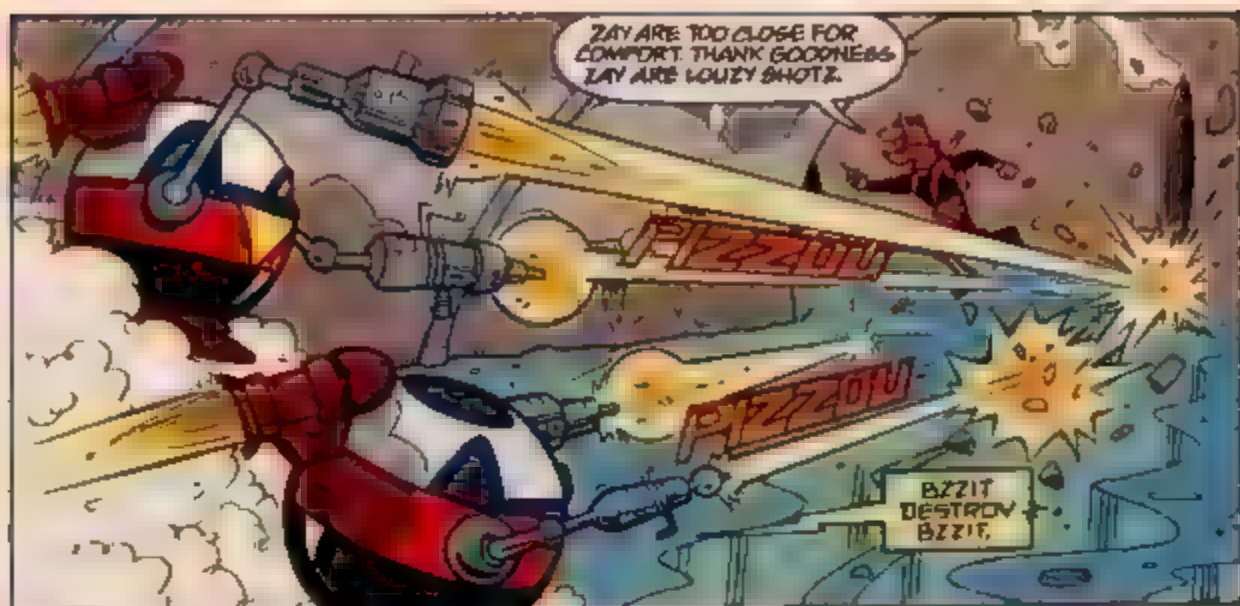


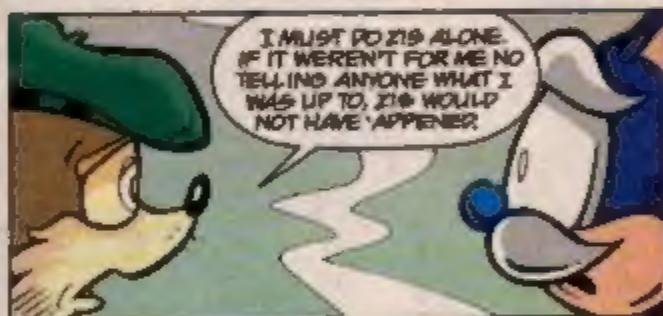
BZZIT TARGET LOCKED
MILITARY SEARCH. BZZIT

DO ZEEG
GUYS EVA GIVE
UP?

I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF HERE MUST...
WARN... OTHERS...

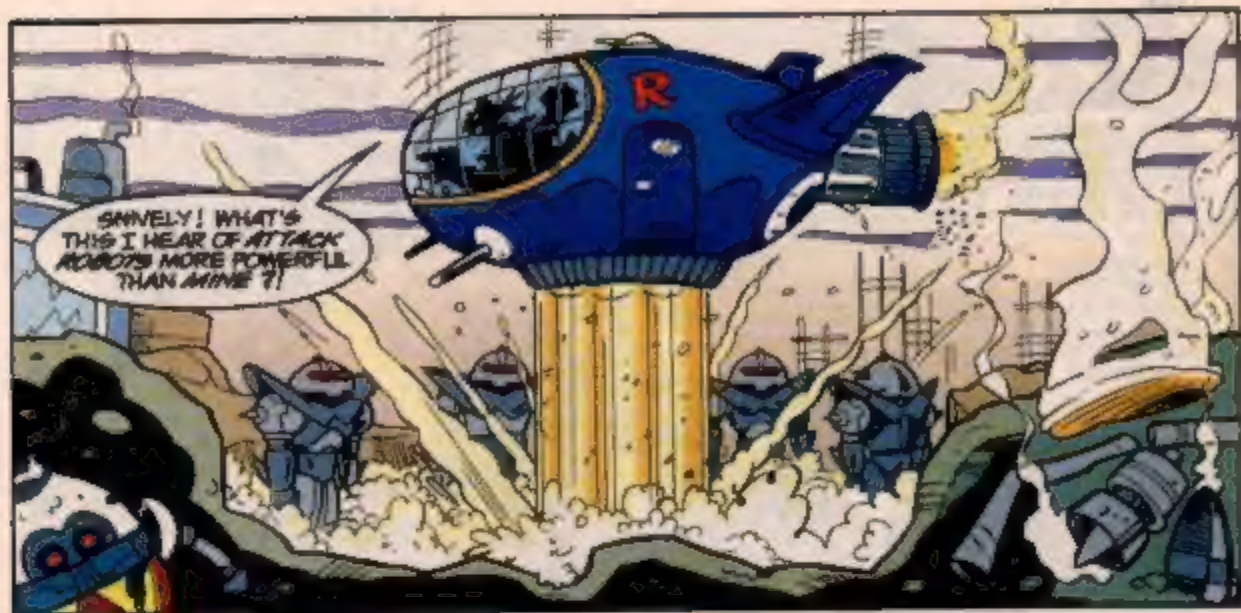












SNIVELY! WHAT'S THIS I HEAR OF ATTACK ROBOTS MORE POWERFUL THAN MINE?!



WHAT ATTACK ROBOTS? OH, YOU MEAN MY DIGGING ROBOTS.

I GOT THIS ANONYMOUS CALL TELLING ME YOU HAD SOME NEW SUPER-POWERED 'BOTS. YOU DESTROYED THE 'BOTS, DIDN'T YOU?



WELL SIR, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED: I WAS TESTING AN EXPERIMENTAL TOXIN USED TO LEVEL ANY GROUND STRUCTURE, NAMELY TREES AND THINGS FOUND IN THE FOREST... WHEN THESE ACCURSED FREEDOM FIGHTERS ATTACKED, I'M AFRAID ALL MY RESEARCH WAS DESTROYED, AS WELL AS THE "DIGGING" ROBOTS, SIR.

THEY SHALL PAY A HEAVY PRICE FOR THEIR ARROGANCE, SNIVELY! THIS, I COMMAND!

BACK IN KNOTHOLE...



IT'S A GOOD THING UNCLE CHUCK MADE THAT CALL TO ROBOTNIK WHEN HE DID. A SHAME I NEVER FIND OUT WHAT'S AT THE OTHER END OF THE MAP.

MAYBE SOMEDAY.

THE LOOP